



First Presbyterian Church of Hernando, MS THE FIRST PRESS

Volume 15, Issue 12

December 2006



December

Liturgists

- 3 Bill Bailey
- 10 Frank Jue
- 17 Ham Brankstone
- 24 Chip Hatcher

Ushers

- Early Walter and Jeanette Wilkinson
- 11:00 Leland Dye, Kevin Briscoe, Jimmy French, Rickey Guy

Communion Servers

- Early Steve Phelps, Jeanette Wilkinson
- 11:00 Taylor Buntin, Sissy Ose, Miriam Crotwell, Cody Kleine, Mary Reiss

Communion Preparation

- Jamie and, Diane Tipton

Greeter

- 11:00 Carrie Dye



December 21

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Members and Friends,

Beginning Sunday, December 3, we will celebrate the four Sundays of the season of Advent by lighting our Advent Wreath during worship. On December 3rd we will light the candle of HOPE, remembering God's gift that enters our lives and the life of the world through the birth of our Savior, Jesus. God's redemption of humanity through Christ Jesus is our hope. I remember a saying that Ken Siplely once posted in the choir room: "Since I gave up hope, I feel much better." It took me awhile to understand that the humor of that statement is found in the utter futility of life's pursuits without that hope which we find in our Savior.

On December 10th our worship focuses on God's gift of PEACE. I'm afraid that, much like Ken Siplely's sage who gave up hope, many people in our world have given up on the possibilities for peace. We may not have a "World War" going on right now, but there are countless places on earth where violence born of hatred seems to be never-ending. Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace. Only in Him can we find peace in our own hearts. For Christians, "Peace on Earth" is not just a silly wish. We trust that God's power in Christ Jesus will usher in an era of genuine peace, which is much more than simply the absence of war.

On December 17th we will light the candle of JOY. Our choirs will joyfully present a Service of Lessons and Carols at the 11:00 service. (WE WILL NOT SHARE AN 8:45 SERVICE ON 12/17!) At 11:00 we'll remember together the quiet joy that Mary found as she pondered the mysteries of God's promised birth and the hopeful news that she treasured in her heart. At 5:00 p.m. on the evening of the 17th members and friends will be invited to a birthday party for Baby Jesus, and we will joyfully share a meal and sing carols of the season with friends at Wesley Meadows and from our church family.

On December 24th we will light the candle of LOVE at both morning services. God's incarnation upon the earth in the form of a newborn child is the greatest expression of divine love which the world has ever known. Fitting that we celebrate that gift of love on Christmas Eve day itself! On Sunday evening we will return to the sanctuary for our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5:00 p.m.

I've just read a thought-provoking article by Rev. Joan Gray, current moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). The article is located at the following web address <http://pcusa.org/today/departments/inside/inside.htm>. Rev. Gray offers a realistic perspective on the American expression of the season of Christmas. She says that our culture basically practices Christmas as an exercise in forgetting (forgetting unpleasantness, credit bills, calories and the excesses of our celebrations). She challenges us to celebrate Christmas as a season not in which we forget, but in which we focus on remembering God's transformation of the world through the birth of Christ. As we focus in our worship life on HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE, may God enable us to remember, and, in our remembering, to receive the full measure of God's blessed gifts at Christmas.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev. Robert "Chip" A. Hatcher, Jr.*

Treasurer's Report—(for October 2006)

	Current Period	Year to Date
Contributions-Pledges	\$22,000.91	\$266,015.91
Contributions-Loose Plate	2,039.90	11,375.36
Contributions-Sunday School	134.45	1,122.99
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,638.00	6,058.54
Building Use Income	0.00	1,450.00
Bank Interest	25.64	287.98
MDO Expense Sharing	0.00	3,666.00
Camp Hopewell	0.00	1,240.50
Dress-a-Child	0.00	80.00
Flower Fund— Lilies etc.	0.00	35.22
Kitchen Fund	25.00	606.00
Family Night	931.00	3,693.28
Men of Church Dinner	111.00	660.00
Montreat (PYF)	229.00	6,850.56
Music Enrichment Fund	0.00	80.00
Men's Prayer Breakfast	200.00	400.00
Helping Hands Fund	350.00	350.00
Van Fund	2,850.00	6,475.00
Library Fund	0.00	100.00
Two-Cents-A-Meal	137.35	1,000.29
Christmas Joy Offering	0.00	0.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	706.00
Witness Season Offering	0.00	0.00
World Communion Offering	0.00	0.00
Mortgage Addl. Prin. Reduction	26,932.00	40,995.00
Director of C. E. Fund	100.00	500.00
Love Gift	0.00	2,302.50
Special Offering	0.00	1,867.00
Cancer Camp	350.00	350.00
Total Income	58,054.25	358,583.13
Total Expenses	61,143.91	368,015.45
Excess Income/Expenses	-\$3,089.66	-\$9,432.32
Balance of Loan	\$337,287.00	

PYF Calendars for Sale! PYF has been selling calendars for \$10 to help with the expenses for Montreat. If you have not yet bought one, now is the time to do so. The calendars make a wonderful gift for someone at Christmas. Please help PYF and buy your calendar now.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

Given to the Building Fund in memory of **Olive Chester:**

Betty Kirby

Given to the van fund in memory of **George Ricks, Laura Easley's father:**

Ken and Carolyn Plunk

Given to the Building fund in memory of **Wesley and Annelle Bailey:**

Cathy Thompson



Given to the Van Fund in memory of **Wesley and Annelle Bailey, Bill Bailey's mother:**

Ken and Carolyn Plunk
Tom and Laura Easley

Given to the Van Fund in honor Of **Katharine Kidd:**

Rose Baenke

Please Remember in Prayer:

Members of Our Congregation:

Chuck Davidson & Family, Ben Owen, Ryma Calvert, Dave Crumpton, Lillian Skaggs, Marla Rustenhaven, Katharine Kidd, Donna Hall, Lisa Forbes

Family Members of Our Congregation:

Michael French (Jimmy's brother), Bill Forshey (Mary Reiss' nephew), Tommy Bennett (Cathy Johnson's brother), Floy Peterson (Lisa Forbes' mother), Dolores Rustenhaven (Joel's mother), Charles Halford (Lynn Pattison's father), Trish Cole (Brian Goff's sister), Dean Kirby (Betty's brother-in-law), Justin Londeree (Betty Kirby's great-grandson), Helen Adler (Michelle Eaves' grandmother), Helen Porter (Lillian Skaggs' mother), Charles Kennedy (Ralph's brother), Shirley Richardson (Kalle Cantrell's mother), Mrs. Chamberlin (Bobby's mother), Frances Wilson (Genie McGee's mother), Martha Clark (Dallygene Reeve's mother), Violet Walker (Gale Brankstone's mother), Daisy Wilson (Sharon Thornton's mother), Diane Callahan (Becky Parmley's aunt), Richard Parolli (Jason's father), Ollie Mae Wilbanks (Debbie Powell's aunt), Claudia Runken (Carla Samuel's mother, Joe Fowler (Anne Smith's brother), Graydon Scott (Laura Harrell's father), Jacqueline Parmley (Joel Rustenhaven's friend)

CHOP News

Our big project this semester was filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Working together, we were able to meet our goal of filling 10 shoe boxes. To help cover the cost of shipping, we worked at the Music Festival on the Square and we have special banks to collect our spare change. Thanks to generous donations from some very special people we were able to put a few extra gifts in the shoe boxes before shipping them plus, we were able to purchase two broods of chicks and a goat through Samaritan's Purse.

Since this is a great project for us, we decided to create the "Operation Christmas Child Gift of the Month Club" to carry us through the year. The joy we celebrate at Christmas doesn't have to end in December! The youth have been given a list of "gift suggestions" for each month. Collection boxes are set up in the Seekers SS room. December's OCC Gift of the Month is: an ornament or decoration that reminds you of the real meaning of Christmas - an angel, a star, a manger, etc.

Upcoming CHOP activities - mark your calendar:

Dec 6th 6:30-7:30 Meet in the Fellowship Hall

Dec 20th time TBA - CHOP Christmas party and movie

Jan 19th Lock In

Feb 23-25 Jr. High Retreat at Camp Hopewell

Cindy Gurley

PYF Update

Dear Parents:

Please be sure to read the SPLATT newsletters when they come out. They include information not only for the kids but also for the parents. Especially the meal schedule and when we need drivers. On this last newsletter I asked that the kids try to help us with a mission opportunity. We are collecting men's socks and underwear to take to the soup kitchen/shelter. They can bring these to me any time. Also, if your PYF member has not turned in their calendar money, please do this by December 10th. If you have calendars that have not been sold, please try to get those sold and whatever is left over bring to me on the 10th. This was our first Montreat fundraiser and we need to know where we stand money wise. I am still missing several permission slips from PYF members. If you have not turned one in, I need it as soon as possible. Don't forget—they need to be notarized. Please feel free to give me a call with any questions or concerns.

Tonia Marshall

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

In you God created such kind, thoughtful and loving friends. I do not know what I would have done without you during my recent illness.

The good cooks among you comforted me with such tasty and healing meals that I can think only of getting well.

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and calls. My heart remembers and I will be forever grateful.

Donna Hall

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays

01	Midge Smith	18	Davis Bailey
02	Pam Briscoe		Jackie Egdorf
03	Donna Hall		Polly Caster
04	Andrea Pfisterer	19	Lisa Forbes
05	Ed Talbot		Sharon Thornton
	Lillian Skaggs	20	Dave Crumpton
06	Amy Brown	21	Olivia Sandridge
	Scott White	22	Rodger Pattison
	Anthony Kessler		Jeanie Small
07	Bert Mills		Lauren Anglin
09	Mike Massey	25	Brett Beard
	Don White	26	Chip Hatcher
	Will Mayo	27	Margaret Dilworth
10	Cindy Talbot		Chris Brown
13	Dianna Forbes	28	Jay Dirks
	Meredith Walker		Gale Brankstone
14	Jason Farris		Kitt Albritton
15	Scottie Langston	30	Michael Massey
	Joy Whitehead	31	Tonia Marshall
	Ally Goff		
16	Victoria Sanders		
	Noah Costa		
	Brian Jones		



December Anniversaries

05	Todd/Kathy Johnson	1987
07	Ken/Cindy Gurley	1985
17	Brad/Rachel Cook	2005
19	Rickey/Diann Guy	1987
	Ben/Tonia Marshall	1998
21	Joel/Marla Rustenhaven	2003
23	Chris/Andrea Pfisterer	2004
27	Bill/Lolly Bailey	1972
29	Chip/Melinda Hatcher	1984

Choir Notes

Dear Friends,

As Christmas draws near the choirs of FPC are working in overdrive! Below are listed opportunities for your family to enjoy or participate in.

Tuesday, December 5, 6 p.m., Annual P. W. Christmas Dinner, entertainment provided by members of the Kirk Choir and a Carols sing-a-long for everyone to participate in.

Sunday, December 17, 11 a.m., A Festival of Lessons and Carols, a traditional service of the reading of scriptures and singing of carols that tell of our Savior's nativity.

Sunday, December 17, 5 p.m., Happy Birthday Jesus party and Christmas Caroling afterwards. Come join us in singing the songs of the season . . . Everyone is invited! There's nothing like getting together and singing carols to put you in the Christmas Spirit!

A brief reminder of remaining rehearsals for the following choirs: *Youth Ensemble Schedule Change* Beginning November 29, rehearsals will be held at 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Singers need to be prepared to stay later on December 13 for the dress rehearsal of the Lessons and Carols service.

The children in Ryan Hay's choir (3rd—5th Grades) are asked to attend the remaining rehearsals on November 29, December 6, and December 13 at 6:30 p.m. The rehearsal on December 13 will run longer than 30 minutes as we will have a dress rehearsal for the Lessons and Carols service.

We hope that you are blessed by the musical offerings that will be heard during this special season. We also need YOUR voice! Whether it is to join a musical ensemble or to simply lift your voice in song from the pew, God delights in the singing and praises of his people. Make a joyful noise!



*Blessings,
Norma Roddy*



All Women . . .

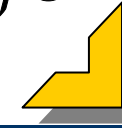
You are invited to attend our

Annual P.W. Christmas Dinner

*Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall*

*Dinner is potluck. Meat and bread
will be furnished by PW.*

*Entertainment by Norma Roddy &
choir members*



Save Your Quarters To Buy a Water Buffalo

The children in the Wednesday Family Night program have been studying hunger, sharing, and the Heifer International Program. The Heifer International is a nonprofit organization that since 1944 has worked to end hunger and poverty by giving struggling families the gift of farm animals to provide them with ongoing food and income. Through the gift of livestock, a family can obtain milk, eggs, wool, and other benefits to feed, clothe, and educate their children. Each gift multiplies as each family that receives a Heifer International animal promises to “pass on the gift” by giving one or more of their animal’s offspring to another family in need. We had a goal of raising \$120 to purchase a goat for a needy family. **SUCCESS !!!** A goat is on the way to Heifer International. Thank you to everyone for putting your quarters in the goat stick. We will continue to call it the “goat stick” but we are now collecting quarters for a water buffalo! A water buffalo is like three gifts in one. Because a water buffalo can provide a family with protein-rich milk, organic fertilizer and pulling power, they are among the most sought-after livestock in many parts of the world. A water buffalo costs \$250. We need to fill the goat stick two times to raise enough for the water buffalo. I know we can do it. Keep bringing your quarters.

Advent Activities for Children

On Sunday morning, December 3rd, during the Sunday School time, we will celebrate the Advent season by making decorations and decorating the tree in the fellowship hall. We will also have the Living Gift Market set up. All of the Sunday School classes will be participating. Please bring a dish for the pot luck brunch.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 17, 5 p.m., for our Happy Birthday Jesus party and caroling.

Living Gift Market

What do you buy the person who has everything? How about a goat, a llama, or a water buffalo. On Sunday morning, December 3rd, at the Living Gift Market learn how sponsoring animals like these can provide food and income for hungry families through Heifer International. You get a handsome gift card to give, and a hungry family gets hope. Help to celebrate the spirit of Christmas with a Living Gift. For more information please see Joyce Dean.

*Christian Education Director
Joyce Dean*

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If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary during the Christmas season in honor or memory of someone, please fill out this form, put in offering plate or turn in to the office with your money. (Soon)



I would like to donate ____ poinsettias @ \$10 each.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion 2¢ a meal Session Mtg. Confirmation Class 4 p.m.	4 9-2 MDO	5 PW Christmas Dinner 6 p.m.	6 9-2 MDO Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. CHOP in F.H. 6:30 p.m.	7 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m.	8	9
10 Congregational Meeting Committee Mtg. Confirmation Class 4 p.m. PYF 4 p.m.	11 9-2 MDO	12 PW Evening Circle 10:00 a.m.	13 9-2 MDO Youth Choir 5:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	14 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Shepherd's Center 10 a.m.	15 Lifeline Screening in F.H.	16
17 No early service Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00 a.m. Happy Birthday	18 9-2 MDO	19	20 9-2 MDO CHOP Party in F.H. 6:30 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Newsletter Deadline!	22 Winter Begins	23
24 Christmas Eve Service 5 p.m.	25 Christmas Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed Choir 7 p.m.	28 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 a.m. Prime Time Games 10:30 a.m.	29 PYF Lock-in 8 p.m.	30
31						

Church Directory

Robert A. Hatcher, Jr., Pastor email: fpcchip@midsouth.rr.com..... Church 429-6646, Home 429-0402
 Norma Roddy email: nroddy98@centurytel.net..... Minister of Music
 Joyce Dean email: fpcjoyce@midsouth.rr.com..... CE Director
 Carolyn Faust Organist
 Anne Smith email: fpcanne@midsouth.rr.com..... Administrative Assistant
 Ralph Kennedy Clerk of Session
 Betty Floyd Treasurer
 Vicki Earl; Lynn Wells Nursery Attendants
 Frank Jue Sunday School Superintendent
 Meredith Walker Prayer Breakfast Coordinator
 Rodger Pattison Men of the Church Coordinator
 Joyce Dean Family Night Director
 Meredith Walker Prayer Breakfast Coordinator
 Cindy Runken (449-4449) Mother's Day Out Director
 Peggy Witherspoon (449-5874) Prayer Ring Coordinator

SESSION

Class of 2007	Brent Floyd Ralph Kennedy	Ham Brankstone Ray Hill
Class of 2008	Chris Brown Becky Parmley	Taylor Buntin Jason Parolli
Class of 2009	Michelle Eaves Bob Reiss	Matt Parham Bill Stepp

DEACONS

Class of 2007	Chad Braddock Mary Reiss Jeanette Wilkinson	Pam Briscoe Johnny Skaggs
Class of 2008	Jimmy French Rachel Cook Missy Phelps	Cody Kleine Holly Neel
Class of 2009	Robert Brankstone Julia Park Karen Sandridge	Pam Hill Pete Reeves

TRUSTEES

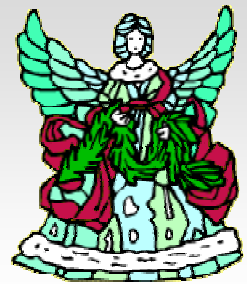
Class of 2008 - Bill Bailey

Class of 2010 - Dyke Sandridge

Class of 2012 - Taylor Buntin

Special Christmas Services!

A "Service of Lessons and Carols" will be during the 11:00 a.m. service on December 17th. There will be **NO** early service that day. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m. on the 24th.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
HERNANDO, MS**

1455 McIngvale Road
Hernando, MS 38632