

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (USA)
Clemson, South Carolina

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 29, 2009

Our Vision

*Joining together on a journey of Christian faith,
we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love
in our community and around the world.*

399 College Avenue, Clemson, SC 29631
864-654-2061; fax 864-654-8934; www.forthillchurch.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2009, 10:30 A.M.

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Trinity Chimes

Prelude: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

*(The prelude signals the beginning of corporate worship
so bring your individual greetings and conversations to a close at that time. Thank you.)*

Time of Greeting and Fellowship and Life of the Church

Laura Conrad

Leader: Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Processional Hymn #2: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" verse 1 (remain seated)

HYFRYDOL

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Philip, Meri Kate, Henry and Lydia Marcum

+Hymn #8: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Mary Gause

Faithful God, we rejoice that you come again into our lives.

Yet we confess that we are still not ready for such a coming.

We know the stories, yet keep them at a distance.

We hear the words, but do not take them to heart.

Awaken us to your Spirit, so that Christ's birth makes a difference in our lives

and grant us your hope and peace, through the grace of Jesus we pray.

(followed by silent individual confession)

Assurance of Pardon: (followed by)

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

*+A Faithful Response: "Joy to the World!"

ANTIOCH

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as, the curse is found.

(During the singing of the hymn, children may come to the front.)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Presentation to our 1st and 2nd Graders

Terri Bruce

(Following the presentation, 3 year olds-1st grade may leave THROUGH THE SIDE DOOR for extended care.

Visitors: please accompany your child to the nursery for registration purposes.)

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11 (The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**)

Anthem: "Of The Father's Love Begotten"

Wolgemuth

New Testament: Luke 1:5-25 (The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**)

Sermon: Dumbstruck with Disbelief!

Laura Conrad

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+Hymn #9: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

+Affirmation of Faith: "The Apostles' Creed" (front of Hymnal, page 14)

Bill Gause

Prayers of the People and "The Lord's Prayer" (front of Hymnal, page 16)

("and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors")

Lord, God of new beginnings, in the first steps of this beginning- Advent,

Hear our prayers of hope:

Where there is unrestrained joy,

Give us the hope of friends in Christ with whom to share it;

Where there is pressing loneliness,

Give us the hope of a community of Christ's caring people;

Where there is growling hunger of body,

Give us the hope of a great banquet where Christ is the host;

Where there is a craving hunger of the mind,

Give us the hope of the truth of Christ;

Where there is desperate hunger of spirit,

Give us the hope of deep faith in Christ;

Where there is smoldering anger,

Give us the hope of Christ's kindness;

Where there is hard fear,

Give us the hope of safety in Christ;

Where there are children of plenty and children of want,

Give us the hope of coming to Christ;

Where there are young of innocence and young with rage,

Give us the hope of Christ's ideals;

Where there are noble elders and difficult elders,

Give us the hope of Christ's wisdom;

Where there is doubt,

Give us faith to see beyond what eyes can see

the Christ who was and is and shall surely be.

Hear us, O God, while we pray the prayer we are taught to pray...

Invitation to Discipleship

Offering of Oneself and One's Gifts to God and to God's Church

Offertory: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (text at Hymn #13)

Paul Manz

+Response of Praise: Hymn #22: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" verse 4

REGENT SQUARE

+Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison; from Hymn #8: "Lift Up Your Heads")

Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to Thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let us Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in us reveal. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

+Hymn #13: "Prepare the Way"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

+Benediction and Choral Response

+Postlude: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Paul Manz

+indicates that all who are able may stand

*indicates that Ushers will seat late worshipers

SERVICE NOTES FOR 10:30 AM SERVICE

- Following worship please introduce yourself to those around you. Don't take it for granted they know who you are; tell them your name. **Laura Conrad** will be at the Edgewood Avenue Door; **Bill Gause** will be at the Courtyard Door and **Mary Gause** will be at the Porte-cochere Door.
- We welcome visitors to worship today and pray the service will be a blessing to you. Please print your name on the Friendship Pad when it is passed and introduce yourself to those who are seated around you. You are invited and welcome to participate in all the programs of Fort Hill Church. If you would like to join our church, please indicate this on the Friendship Pad.
- The Elder on duty today is **Leslie Hicklin**. Following worship, the Elder on Duty will be at the Baptismal Font. If you would like to join the church, express a joy or concern or make a suggestion to the Session, please speak to this Elder on Duty.
- **Congratulations to our Advanced Children's Church Graduates!** Over the past nine weeks, our 1st - 2nd graders have been participating in the Advanced Children's Church Program. Today, they receive their certificate of completion and a special gift from the Worship Ministry. The children receiving certificates today are: Carter Bandy, Bennett Bost, Sam Bruce, Elyse Hollingsworth, Catherine Jones, Mac Martin, Clay Mohr, Kristen Smith, Sydney Weeks, Ally Wilson and Tipton Wright.
- Please honor the worship experience by refraining from photography during the service.
- Child care is offered during worship for all children through age 5. Childcare for children 0-3 years of age begins at 10:15 am in our education building (first floor). Please ask an usher for directions to nurseries.
- Restrooms are located at the front (handicapped-accessible) and rear of Sanctuary and in both adjacent buildings.
- Hearing devices are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.
- Scripture passages for next Sunday are: Luke 1:26-38.

SUNDAY'S SERVANTS

Pastor On Call (11/30 - 12/6)

Mary Gause (Call 654-2065 between 4:30 pm and 8:30 am)

(This information is also available each week on our answering machine after normal business hours.)

Deacons Corner – Care Line: If you know of any congregational member who needs care for illness, anticipated surgery or hospitalization, a birth or death in the family, or any other concerns that the church family should know and pray about, please call FHPC Care Line, 864-654-2061.

Prayer Request cards are available in each pew rack. Please fill out card and place in offering plate.

Offering Counters for Today
Fred Burgett and Jerry Lesley

Offering Counters for Next Sunday
Joe Dickey and Wayne Madison

Nursery Workers for Today
Jeannie Bailey, Ellen Torrence, Audrey Thompson and Janet Johnson, Karen and Cal Sawyer

Nursery Workers for Next Sunday
Reagan Blondeau, Tracy and Tommy Bolger, Elizabeth Bost and Mary Courtney Norris, Kristen and Mark McInnis

Attendance from 11/22/09:	10:30 Worship	269	Sunday School	151	8:30 Worship	108
Attendance from last year 11/23/08:	10:30 Worship	243	Sunday School	130	8:30 Worship	64

Head Ushers for November: Terri Bruce / Leslie Hicklin; **Head Ushers** for December: Kristen McInnis / Randy Moore

Staff Notes

Rodney Norris' Sabbatical - Last year Session approved a three month Sabbatical for Rodney Norris, our Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. He will be away from November 2, 2009 - February 1, 2010.

Kerin Watts is away this Sunday.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun. 11/29	8:30 AM	Worship – Tartan Hall
	9:15 AM	Sunday School– Various locations
	9:45 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
	10:30 AM	Worship - Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
Mon. 11/30	6:30 PM	Young Adults Theology on Tap – Mellow Mushroom
	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts – Tartan Hall, Club Room, dungeon
Tues. 12/1	7:00 AM	Men of the Church Breakfast – Tartan Hall
	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
	6:00 PM	Building and Grounds Ministry Meeting – Conference Room
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
Wed. 12/2	3:00 PM	Sermon Starters – Clemson Downs
	5:00 PM	Webelos – Club Room
	5:30 PM	Music Ministry Meeting - Library
	6:15 PM	Handbell Rehearsal – Choir Room
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Thur. 12/3	8:00 AM	Preschool Snow Houses – Club Room
	12:00 PM	Young Adult Men's Bible Study – Conference Room
	2:15 PM	OLLI - Library
Friday 12/4	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
	8:00 AM	Preschool Snow Houses – Club Room
	12:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous – Education Building
	5:30 PM	Elementary Party – Bethlehem Hall and Youth Room

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Men of the Church will have breakfast on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 am in Tartan Hall. The speaker will be Dale Linvill.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thanks to the members of the Seekers and the Bible Sojourners Sunday School classes for helping to hang the greens! You may not have made it for the decorating, but you can still help by making a contribution to provide a wreath or a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone special. Please make checks payable to Fort Hill and indicate who you are remembering and whether you are providing a wreath (\$30) or a poinsettia (\$15). Your contribution will be recognized in the December 20th bulletin.

Mark your calendars and sign your children up for Gift Day! This annual gift making tradition at Fort Hill happens on Dec 6th from 3:30-5:30 in various classrooms. Children from 2 years* up through 6th grade are invited to make up to 5 gifts for family members. The cost is \$10 per child and registration is necessary so leaders can make sure there are enough supplies on hand. You can register by signing up on the "Gift Day Board" in Tartan hall during 8:30am worship and by the new Book Nook at 10:30am worship...or email Jackie Ellis at jells@clemson.edu. We are also looking for persons to lead our crafts. We usually pair two people in a class - or one leader and one assistant - who determine what the five crafts will be, purchase the supplies, and help guide the children through them on Gift Day. It is two hours of crafting madness...but great fun! If you would like to help lead a class - please contact Jackie Ellis (jells@clemson.edu or 656-5048).

The 2010 Flower Calendar is located in the Narthex. Choose your date and sign up now to provide flowers for the sanctuary. The arrangements are made by Tiger Lily at the cost of \$40. Thank you for helping decorate the sanctuary!

An Advent Study - Take a break from the craziness of the holiday season and remember the focus of Advent and Christmas. Beginning today, November 29 and continuing through the four Sundays of Advent, we will gather in Administration Building, room 201 (Rodney's old office) during the SS hour (9:15-10:15) to explore the themes of Advent. Helpful (but not necessary) readings will be sent ahead of time to help facilitate our time so please contact Mary Gause (mary.gause@forthillchurch.org or 654.2061) if you are interested.

New day and time for Angel Vespers! This year, Angel Vespers will be on Sunday, December 13, followed by our 2nd Sunday Supper. JAM and Jesus Jammers and Elementary age children who wish to participate in Angel Vespers will meet in the choir room at 4:30, along with the Middle School Youth, who will be assisting. Musical Explorers who wish to participate will meet in the Temple Sunday School room at 5:05. **Angel Vespers program will begin at 5:15 pm in the Sanctuary** followed by our 2nd Sunday Supper in Tartan Hall. Dinner will be chicken strips, salad, fruit and bread. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Please call the church office at 654-2061 to make reservations by December 9.

Young Adult Group is made up of singles and couples in their 20s and 30s with or without children who gather together for spiritual, social and service events. We meet the last Monday of every month for Theology on Tap to discuss a theological topic for the night. We meet every third Sunday for lunch following the 10:30 worship service. To be added to the young adult email list, email ebritt@alumni.clemson.edu.

Up-Coming Events – Nov 30 – Theology on Tap with Laura Conrad – we will meet at Mellow Mushroom from 6:30-8:00 pm. **December 5** – Christmas Progressive Dinner - 5:30pm - First stop is the Chavis' house (862 Louis Lane/Seneca) for appetizers, then the Kwist's house for the main course and end up at the Conrad's house for dessert and gift exchange. Wear your Tacky Sweater. **December 20** - Lunch at Moe's after church.

Middle School News - Last week we studied what it means to be a “thanks—giver”. This week **we will not meet**. Our next meeting is November 29th at our regular time (4:30 – 6:30 pm). **Up-Coming Events - December 12** – Christmas Progressive Dinner. **December 20** – We will go to Wal-Mart to buy Christmas presents for the family we adopted for Christmas. **January 31** - Snow tubing at Sapphire Valley, NC. **Summer Dates – July 5-10** - mission trip to Ronceverte, WV. **July 21-25** - Montreat Middle School Conference at Presbyterian College.

Sr. High News - Last Sunday we let the Spirit move us through music. Tonight we will not meet. Enjoy the remainder of your Thanksgiving weekend with your family. **Up-Coming Events – Dec. 13** – Christmas Progressive Dinner. **Dec. 20** – We will go to Wal-Mart to buy Christmas presents for the family we adopted for Christmas. **Feb. 5-7** – Ski Trip to WinterPlace, WV. **March 19-21** – Foothills Presbytery Sr. High Retreat in Montreat. **Summer Dates - June 18-27** mission trip to Camp Kintail in Canada. **July 11-17** Montreat Conference.

Presbyterian Student Association – Due to Thanksgiving break, there is no PSA Corner insert in the bulletin this week. We will however still be having our dinner and program as usual at 6:00 pm tonight.

Good Neighbors Trip is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5 to Madison, Georgia, to see antebellum homes and a country farm decorated for the holidays, and the quaint town of Washington, Georgia. Please see Pansy or call her at 864-787-8627 if you'd like to join her and others on this trip. Deadline to sign up is Monday, Nov. 30.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord with Musical Explorers!!! We will be singing with our preschoolers (4&5-yr. olds and 2&3-yr. olds) during the 10:30 Children's Church time. Our song selection for November includes “Thank You, God,” “Give Thanks to the Lord” and other Bible song favorites. This month we will also sing “Mary Had a Baby” and “Away in a Manger” in preparation for Angel Vespers on December 13th. If you have any questions about the Musical Explorers program, please contact Kristy MacRae at krmacrae@hotmail.com.

No JAM or Jesus Jammers today. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with your family.

OUTREACH

The Feed the 5000 collection (containers for donating at doors as you enter or leave) on 11/22/09 was \$35.43. The money goes to Clemson Community Care, Our Daily Bread, Golden Corner Food Bank and Safe Harbor II to buy food.

Volunteers needed for 2009 Christmas Basket Mission on Friday, December 18, and Saturday, December 19. If you can help, please sign up in the FHOG office. Donations of 3 lbs. hams or frozen turkeys are needed! Monetary donations to help buy food should be sent to Fort Hill, note "Christmas Baskets" on the check.

Christmas "Gifts That Give" – This year Christian Action is broadening its Christmas gift program even more to include many other deserving charities. "Gifts that Give" opportunities now are:

Presbyterian – Medical Benevolence Foundation, Presbyterian Communities of SC (for residential aid), and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

International – Ghana Partnership*, Heifer International, Water Missions, and Church World Service.

Local – Clemson Community Care, Clemson Child Development Center, Camp Buc*, Habitat for Humanity of Pickens County, Safe Harbor II, Helping Hands, Clemson Free Clinic, and InDwellings*. * These organizations, while local or international in nature, also fit into the "Presbyterian" category in that they are affiliated with and/or supported by the Foothills Presbytery. Please look at the "Gifts that Give" table in the covered arcade for an overview of these charities and the gifting procedure. This Christmas we invite you to share God's love with a hurting world. Christmas "Gifts That Give" can be a simple shopping solution for both you and your family.

Fort Hill's Habitat for Humanity House – Good news! Thanks to a break in the rain, the house was positioned over the footer last week and the cement block foundation walls are being built. Please remember to sign up on one of the volunteer lists. Indicate a job preference, if you have one. During the prior week, Wes Worley contacts volunteers about work for a given Saturday depending on the number of workers that are needed. Signing up to volunteer is by no means a commitment to work every Saturday. It simply means that you would be willing to have Wes call you to see if you would be available to help the following Saturday, depending on the type of work that is planned. To volunteer contact Wes at 654-9449 or e-mail him at wes.worley@att.net.

The Key Koraliers present their annual Christmas Cheer Concert on Monday, Dec. 7 @ 7:30 at Walhalla High School. Tickets are available for \$10 from several Chancel Choir members and at the door. Also appearing will be the Middle School Honors Chorus from Seneca. Your support is appreciated.

Plan to attend Handel's Masterpiece of music, "Messiah" presented by Foothills Chorale on Sunday, December 6, at 3:00 pm at the Brooks Center with splendid vocalists and orchestra under the direction of our own, Bill Diekhoff. Tickets are available from chorale members, Jim/Vernie Roberts, 654-3735, Marlene Nicholas, 654-9309, Randall/Millie Poole, 654-1185. Tickets are \$15 for the concert, or \$25 for season tickets (3 concerts). No box office tickets available but will be sold at the door. Welcome the Christmas season with this inspiring music.

Foothills Retirement Community invites you to Christmas in Toyland Open House on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 2-5pm. Pictures with Santa will be from 3-4pm. There will also be seasonal music, holiday refreshments and tours of patio homes and apartments. RSVP by Dec. 4th to 864-859-3367. See flyer on bulletin board.

PASTORAL STAFF: Laura Conrad, Pastor (laura.conrad@forthillchurch.org); Bill Gause, AP for University Ministry (bill.gause@forthillchurch.org); Mary Cunningham Gause, AP for Christian Education (mary.gause@forthillchurch.org); Rodney Norris, AP for Youth and Young Adult Ministry (rodney.norris@forthillchurch.org); Pansy Duke, Parish Visitor (pansy.duke@forthillchurch.org); Jack Lovett Stevenson, Pastoral Counselor (jps28@bellsouth.net)

SESSION: Mary Dusenberry – Interim Clerk, Sally Martin – Assistant Clerk, Mike Blackwell - Treasurer
Class of 2010: Caleb Bailey, Bill Cato, Bob Folsom, Bobby Skelton, William Spitler, John Spragins, Alice Thalheimer, Linda Wofford

Class of 2011: Chris Bandy, Charles Barron, Becky DeWitt, Amy Elrod, Leslie Hicklin, Ethel Pettigrew, Cal Sawyer

Class of 2012: Elizabeth Bost, Terri Bruce, Will Gregory, Sally Martin, Kristen McInnis, Randy Moore

DEACONS: Lee Churchfield – Moderator, Larry Goodwin – Vice-Moderator

Class of 2010: Myra Cato, Lee Churchfield, Betty Dean, Joan Dixon, Cynthia Gravely, Edmee Reel, Cathy Spragins, Tom Wooten

Class of 2011: Michael Bailey, Susan Brown, Larry Goodwin, Karen Lindenmeyer, Betty Long, Stephanie Scott, Audrey Thompson, Eva Williamson

Class of 2012: Janet Bean, Debbie Collins, Robert Key, John McGregor, Cathy McInnis, Alison Reynolds, Suzan Simmons, Bryan Young

TRUSTEES: Danny Gregg (2010), Joe Dickey (2011), Robin Weeks (2012)
Endowment Committee: The Three Elected Trustees, Member At Large, Jim Phillips

CHURCH STAFF: Administrative Assistant: Fran Solesbee (fran.solesbee@forthillchurch.org)
Office Administrator: Lori Houck (lori.houck@forthillchurch.org)
Sexton: Milton Benson, Assistant Sexton: Doris Clark

PRESBYTERIAN COUNSELING CENTER: The Rev. Dr. Jack Lovett Stevenson (653-4025 or 442-9003)

MISSIONARIES: Rodney and Sharyn Babe – Haiti
David and Susan Thomas – Cuernavaca, Mexico
Dr. Michael and Nancy Haninger –Democratic Republic of Congo

MUSIC: Chancel Choir Director – Bill Diekhoff (billyd4@charter.net)
Organist – Judy Bonham (bonhamj_44@yahoo.com)
Pianist – Becky Bowman
Children’s Choir Director – Kristy MacRae (krmacrae@hotmail.com)

CHURCH SCHOOL:

Classes for Children and Adults at 9:15 am Nursery and preschool extended session at 10:30 am
Superintendent: Tom Wooten Nursery workers: Sarah Kolacki, Amanda Towery, Michelle Blackwell, Andrea Adderhold

MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP: Advisors: Jackie Martin, Colin Pettigrew, Dick and Laura Shick

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP: Advisors: Andy and Reagan Blondeau, Cyndi Davis, LeAnne Greene, Nick Greene, Mark McInnis

PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT ASSOC. (PSA) 654-3705: University Ministry Intern: Kerin Watts (kerin.watts@forthillchurch.org)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Carol Stout, Moderator; Linda Gahan, Moderator-Elect; Janette Hamilton, Secretary; Anna Tollison, Treasurer

Circle 1 – meets first Monday at 12:15 pm, Donna Crader & Eva Henry, Co-Leaders

Circle 2 – meets second Tuesday at 7:30 pm, Clint Moore & Elaine Prock, Co-Leaders

Circle 3 – meets second Monday at 9:30 am, Gayle McGregor & Lisa Street, Co-Leaders

Circle 5 – meets first Monday at 3:00 pm, Laura Lefevre & Hazel Sparks, Co-Leaders

Circle 7 – meets fourth Monday at 9:15 am; Rotating leadership; Moms with younger children

MEN OF THE CHURCH: Bob Littleton, President; Gus Gustafson, Treasurer - Meets monthly – first Tuesday at 7:00 am

FORT HILL PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL: Shelley Burchfield, Director; Donna McCubbin, Treasurer

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Pack 235: Tim Howard, Cubmaster; Jay Jones, Committee Chairperson; Helen Adams, Institution Representative

Troop 235: Vic Shelburne, Scoutmaster; Bill Foster, Committee Chairperson; Helen Adams, Institution Representative

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church is a member of Foothills Presbytery, Synod of South Atlantic, Presbyterian Church (USA).
