

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2009



Fort Hill Presbyterian Church
399 College Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2009, 10:30 A.M.

Trinity Chimes

PRELUDE: *How Great Their Joy*

Linda Lamb

Chancel Bells

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

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Laura Conrad

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (remain seated)

Hyfrydol

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Eric, Elizabeth, Bennett and Walton Bost

BIDDING PRAYER

Mary Gause

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Lin Dearing

God Calls to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

The man and woman heard the voice of God while walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. And God called to the man, and said to him, "where are you?" And the man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." And God said, "who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree, which I commanded that you not eat?" And the man said, "the woman who you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And God said to the woman, "what is this that you have done?" And the woman said, "the serpent tricked me, and I ate." And God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; on your belly you shall crawl, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life: and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

John Rutter

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful; the Lord God made them all.

The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky,

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden; God made them every one.

God gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

Samantha Young

God Promises to Abraham that in His Seed Shall All the Nations of the Earth be Blessed

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

+CAROL: *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY, Arranged by David Willcocks

Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

(Stanza 3—Congregation and Chancel Choir)

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

(Stanza 4—Congregation and Chancel Choir)

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

(Stanza 5—Congregation and Chancel Choir with descant)

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned, All in white shall wait around.**

+CAROL: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight. **(Refrain)**

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strive, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **(Refrain)**

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN: THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Laura Conrad

Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

(Following the reading, 3 year olds-Kindergarten may leave THROUGH THE SIDE DOOR for extended care.

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

+CAROL: *Go, Tell It On The Mountain*

SPIRITUAL

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere,
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. **(Refrain)**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **(Refrain)**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **(Refrain)**

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Cheryl Trammell

The Peace that Christ will Bring is Foreshown

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

+CAROL: *Prepare The Way*

Bereden Vag For Herran

**Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story
(Refrain): O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.**

**Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. (Refrain)**

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carter McInnis

The Angel Gabriel Salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

+CAROL: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

F. Mendelssohn, Arranged by David Willcocks

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
(Refrain) Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel, **(Refrain)**

(Stanza 3- Congregation and Chancel Choir with Descant)

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings;
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. (Refrain)

+CAROL: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats over all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing,
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1, 3-7

Tim Howard

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Born In A Manger*

Linda Lamb

Chancel Bells

+CAROL: *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
(Refrain) Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!

(Stanza 2- All Women)

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light and so it continued both day and night. (All Sing Refrain)**

(Stanza 3- All Men)

**And by the light of that same star, Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (All Sing Refrain)**

(Stanza 4- All with Descant)

**This star drew nigh to the northwest o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (All Sing Refrain)**

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

Corey Norris

The Shepherds go to the Manger

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

+CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie,
Above the deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all around,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

(Chancel Choir)

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given,
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven,
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

(Congregation and Chancel Choir with Descant)

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Unto Us A Child Is Born*

Arranged by David Willcocks

Unto us is born a Son, King of choirs supernal;
See on earth His life begun, of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heaven descending low, comes on earth a stranger
Ox and ass their owner know, becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray, and grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay and slew the little children.

Of His love and mercy mild this Christmas story,
And that Mary's gentle Child might lead us up to glory.

Alpha and Omega be *Cum cantibus in choro*, (*Come sing in choirs*)
Let our merry organ go, *Benedicamus Domino*. (*Blessing to God*)

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

Bruce Salley

The Wise Men are Led by a Star to Jesus

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Bill Gause

OFFERING OF ONESELF AND ONE'S GIFTS TO GOD AND THE CHURCH

THE OFFERTORY: *As With Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ to Thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no start to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

+DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

John Unfolds the Great Mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all people might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

+CAROL: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels.

**(Refrain) O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O Come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **(Refrain)**

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exaltation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! **(Refrain)**

+PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Leader: Let us pray. O God, you have pierced the darkness with the shining brightness of the true light. Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that light on earth, may gladly share it with others.

All: Amen.

+Indicates that all who are able may stand

*

Acknowledgments

We thank and recognize those who have assisted with today's service.

Chancel Choir**Soprano**

Mary Barron
Dianne Diekhoff
Diane Egan
Marlene Nicholas
Rameth Owens
Vernie Roberts
Ette Ruppert
Cathy Spragins
Carol Todd

Alto

Mary Coronato
Kathy Hughes
Barbara Fox
Laura Lefevre
Monica McGregor
Shirley Muzii
Millie Poole
Evelyn Rabey
Beth Wilkinson
Jacquie Worley

Tenor

Chip Egan
Garland Gravely
Jim Roberts
John Sherman

Bass

Charles Barron
Brian d'Entremont
George Dunkelberg
Bob Folsom
Randall Poole

Chancel Bells

Bob Folsom, Linda Davis, Ron Hughes, Jacquie Worley, Marlene Nicholas, Susan Smith, Shirley Muzii,
Carol Todd, Raenota Merrill, Cathy Spragins, Beth Weber

Readers

Lin Dearing, Carter McInnis, Corey Norris, Bruce Salley, Cheryl Trammell,
Tim Howard, Heather Wright, Samantha Young

Worship Leaders

Laura Conrad, Bill Gause and Mary Gause

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is a fairly recent development in church history. It originated in the Anglican church around the turn of the century, and was adapted in 1918 for use at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. This service was designed to be used in schools and colleges where it is not possible to celebrate Christmas during terms. Its popularity has seen enormous growth and it is now done annually in many educational and religious institutions around the world. The service is simplicity itself. Choir and congregational carols are interspersed with scripture readings relating the story of Christmas: beginning with the Advent prophecy, through the birth, and ending with the light. For a morning service, a selection of Advent readings is customarily done on the third Sunday in Advent, which is also known as 'Gaudete', or 'rejoicing' Sunday. Christmas readings are customarily reserved for an evening service, or Christmas Eve. We are breaking with tradition today in presenting the full Christmas service of nine lessons, as done annually at Kings College, Cambridge, and around the world. For the benefit of the congregation, the texts of all the lessons and carols are included in the bulletin. The music and words of those carols sung with the congregation are also printed in the worship order. We hope and pray that you find this service to be a meaningful addition to your personal and corporate celebration of Advent and Christmas.

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 **Alice Thalheimer**. 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.
- ◆ Please honor the worship experience by refraining from photography during the service.
- ◆ Child care is offered during worship for children through age 5. Childcare for children 0-3 years of age begins at 10:15 am in education building (first floor). Please ask 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: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:8-20.

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 Nov. 2, 2009 – Feb. 1, 2010.

SUNDAY'S SERVANTS

Pastor On Call (12/14 - 12/20)

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

Offering Counters for Today

Jan and Bill Kahle

Offering Counters for Next Sunday

Barbara Westall and Kathy Hughes

Nursery Workers for Today

Sally and John Martin, Tim and Ann Howard, Finley Wiles and Alyssa Howard, Emily Bartels and Kristy MacRae, Blythe and Marshall Smith

Nursery Workers for Next Sunday

Reagan Blondeau, Edmee Reel and Austin Adams, Claudette Bennett and Barbara Westall, Heather Wright and Beth Gregory

Attendance from 12/6/09:	10:30 Worship	329	Sunday School	137	8:30 Worship	82
Attendance from last year 12/7/08:	10:30 Worship	289	Sunday School	166	8:30 Worship	120

Head Ushers for December: Kristen McInnis / Randy Moore; **Head Ushers** for January: Alice Thalheimer / John Spragins

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun. 12/13	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
	1:00 PM	CAPS—Tartan Hall
	2:00 PM	Cub Scouts—Bethlehem Hall
	5:15 PM	Angel Vespers—Sanctuary, followed by 2nd Sunday Supper in Tartan Hall
Mon. 12/14	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
	9:30 AM	Circle 3 – Club Room
Tues. 12/15	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts – Tartan Hall, Club Room, dungeon
	8:00 AM	Preschool Christmas Program/Party—Tartan Hall
	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
	9:30 AM	Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting—Club Room
Wed. 12/16	6:00 PM	Folk Dance Group—Club Room
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
	8:00 AM	Preschool Christmas Program/Party—Sanctuary and Tartan Hall
	3:00 PM	Sermon Starters – Clemson Downs
	5:00 PM	Webelos—Club Room
Thur. 12/17	6:15 PM	Handbell Rehearsal – Choir Room
	2:15 PM	OLLI - Library
	7:00 PM	Session Meeting—Club Room
Friday 12/18	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
	12:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous – Education Building
Sat. 12/19	2:00 PM	Food pick up/unloading—Bi-Lo and Tartan Hall
	9:00 AM	Christmas Basket Food packing/delivery—Tartan Hall

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Christian Sympathy is extended to Lynette Sefick and family upon the death of her father, Charles E. Ellenburg, on December 5.

The Rosebud today is in celebration of the birth of Keller Isabel Rodgers, daughter of Catherine Rodgers, on December 8. Proud grandparents in our congregation are George and Margaret Ann Rodgers. Aunt, uncle and cousins in our congregation are Beth, Will, Billy, Miller and Rees Gregory.

Congregational Meeting: Electing Church Officers - The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to take place at **10:15 am** on **Sunday, December 20**, in the Sanctuary for the purpose of electing church officers: elders, deacons, and a trustee. All members are encouraged to attend.

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be held at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm.

Sunday, December 27, worship will be at 10:30 only and will be a Christmas Carol Sing. No Sunday school!

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

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). Please fill out insert in bulletin to include with your check. Your contribution will be recognized in the December 20th bulletin (info to Fran by Tuesday, Dec. 15).

Today is Angel Vespers, 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.

Tax Info - December 27 is the last Sunday of the year 2009. Thursday, December 31 at noon is an important Tax Deadline. Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) checks on or by this date in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2009. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2010 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2009 even if the check is predated to 2009 or was actually written in 2009. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2009 will be deductible in 2009 though they are not received by a church until 2010.

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 –December 20 - Lunch at Moe's after church. There will be no Theology on Tap this month due to the Christmas Holidays. See everyone in the New Year.

Middle School News - We will not meet today, Sunday, Dec. 13. **Up-Coming Events - December 20** – We will go to Wal-Mart to buy Christmas presents for the family we adopted for Christmas.

Sr. High News - Tonight is our Christmas Progressive Dinner, meet at the church at 4:30.

Up-Coming Events – Dec. 20 – We will go to Wal-Mart to buy presents for the family we adopted for Christmas.

Presbyterian Student Association – For weekly information on our University Ministry, please see the PSA Corner insert in each week's bulletin. The Clemson University students are away for Christmas/Winter Break until Jan. 6th. Bill Gause, Kerin Watts and several PSA members will be participating in the Montreat College Conference Jan. 2-5th.

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 December includes "Mary Had a Baby," "Away in a Manger" and other Bible song favorites. The children will be singing these two songs during Angel Vespers on December 13th. If you have any questions about the Musical Explorers program, please contact Kristy MacRae at krmacrae@hotmail.com.

OUTREACH

The Feed the 5000 collection (containers for donating at doors as you enter or leave) on 12/6/09 was 136.90. 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.

Presbyterian Women are collecting personal items, notepaper, stamps, etc. for Clinton Presbyterian Home. Deadline to bring items is noon on Friday, Dec. 18th. Thanks to all who donated books, magazines, etc. last month.

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.....On Saturday Dec. 8th we had a fine turnout at our Quail Circle home site and were able to get a lot accomplished despite the wet weather. Under the house, we completed grading and smoothing, fastened the house securely to the block foundation walls, leveled the central beam in its concrete block supports, and used an expanding foam to seal any cracks between the foundation wall and the house itself. Outside, we nearly completed the trench around the footer for the footer drain pipe and roof downspout drains. We also completed waterproofing the foundation walls. During the next few weeks, outside grading will be done and we'll start building the front and back porches. Garland Gravely has offered to lead us through this porch building, so if you'd like to learn from a real pro, don't miss this opportunity! If you haven't already signed up to help with our Habitat building project, please contact Wes Worley (654-9449 or wes.worley@att.net).