

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (USA)
Clemson, South Carolina

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 20, 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009, 10:30 A.M.

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Trinity Chimes

Prelude: "A la Venue de Noel"

Claude Balbastre

*(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

**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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kyle, Robin and Sydney Weeks

+Hymn #23: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Bill Gause

Lord God, forgive us:

**Except in our annual Bethlehem dreaming,
it is very hard to listen for angels singing.**

**In the world where we come to pray,
it is harder still, to expect what the angels have to say.**

**Songs of hope for peace
are drowned in the echoes of war.**

**The melodies of anticipated joy
are muffled by groans of despair.**

**The visions of glory in the highest
seem tarnished by the world's obscenities.**

Give us then

**ears to hear more deeply
and hearts to believe more profoundly, we pray.**
(followed by silent individual confession) Amen.

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: Hymn #44, *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verse 4)

ST. LOUIS

**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.**

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Story for All Children

Bill Gause

*(Following the story, 3 year olds-Kindergarten may leave THROUGH THE SIDE DOOR for extended care.
Visitors: please accompany your child to the nursery for registration purposes.)*

Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a (The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**)

Anthem: "The Jesus Gift"

Martin

Mary Barron, soloist

New Testament: Luke 2:8-20 (The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**)

Sermon: Parable of the Day the Christmas Tree Crashed

Laura Conrad

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+Hymn #29: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

+Affirmation of Faith: (from A Declaration of Faith, IV, 1-22) *God sent the promised Deliverer to his people.*

Leader: Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

People: We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated.

Leader: The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

People: Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended. Thanks be to God!

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

Mary Gause

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

Invitation to Discipleship

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

Offertory: Pastoral on "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

David Lasky

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

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son

Evermore your voices raising, to the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

+Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

All praise be to you, Emmanuel, God-promised and God with us. All praise be yours this sacred season of singing and silence, of darkness and light! Use these gifts to bring to others the Good News of this Advent season. Use us to be your shepherds who go out and share it! Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

+Hymn #40: "Joy to the World!"

ANTIOCH

+Benediction and Choral Response

+Postlude: "The First Nowell"

Alec Wyton

+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; **Mary Gause** will be at the Courtyard Door and **Bill 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: Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-5, 14.

SUNDAY'S SERVANTS

Pastor On Call (12/21 - 12/27)

Laura Conrad (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

Barbara Westall and Kathy Hughes

Offering Counters for Next Sunday

Susan and Danny Pressley

Nursery Workers for Today

Reagan Blondeau, Edmee Reel and Austin Adams, Janet Johnson and Barbara Westall, Heather Wright and Beth Gregory

Nursery Workers for Next Sunday

Susan Pressley, Joan Dixon, Myra Cato and Jordan Weir, Kelly and John McRoberts

Attendance from 12/13/09:	10:30 Worship	325	Sunday School	148	8:30 Worship	79
Attendance from last year 12/14/08:	10:30 Worship	251	Sunday School	123	8:30 Worship	88

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

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.

Lori Houck will be on vacation Monday, Dec. 21 – Wed., Dec. 23.

Fran Solesbee will be on vacation the afternoon of Wed., Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 28 – Tuesday, Dec. 29.

Milton Benson will be on vacation Monday, Dec. 23 – Saturday, Jan. 9.

Doris Clark will be on vacation Monday, Dec. 28 – Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Monday, Jan. 4 – Tuesday, Jan. 5.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sun. 12/20	8:30 AM	Worship – Tartan Hall
	9:15 AM	Sunday School– Various locations
	9:45 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
	10:15 AM	Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary
	10:30 AM	Worship - Sanctuary
	4:30 PM	Middle School Youth Group – Youth Room and Club Room
	6:00 PM	Senior High Youth Group – Club Room and Youth Room
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
Mon. 12/21	1:00 PM	Visual Arts Meeting – Club Room
	5:30 PM	Christian Action Ministry Meeting – Library
	7:00 PM	CAPS – Tartan Hall
Tues. 12/22	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Conference Room
	6:00 PM	Folk Dance Group – Club Room
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
Wed. 12/23		
Thur. 12/24		Church Office Closed
	5:00 PM	Family Christmas Eve Worship Service - Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous - Education Building
	11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service - Sanctuary
Friday 12/25		Church Office Closed
	12:30 PM	Alcoholics Anonymous – Education Building

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25 for Christmas and Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1 for New Year's.

The rosebud on the Communion Table today is in celebration of the birth of Ethan Ryan McMahan on Dec. 13. Ethan is the great grandson of our Assistant Sexton, Doris Clark. Parents are Scott and Christi McMahan, big sister is Meagan.

Christmas Services:

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

Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 am, will be The Stories of the Christmas Carols. Christmas Sunday we will gather for worship at one service in the Sanctuary at 10:30. Come celebrate the birth of Christ as we sing carols and hear the stories behind the songs. No 8:30 service and no Sunday school on Dec. 27.

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.

Stewardship Update - Although the 2010 Stewardship Campaign has ended, pledges continue to come in as you show your Faith in Action. Pledge totals as of 12/8/09 was \$725,868 against an asking budget of \$789,463 which leave us \$63,595 short. If you have not pledged, please prayerfully consider your financial support for 2010.

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!

There will be no Sermon Starters at Clemson Downs on Wed., Dec. 23 or Wed., Dec. 30.

Presbyterian Women Winter Retreat will be January 23, 2010, from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm at Keowee Key Marina; cost is \$15. Speaker/Facilitator will be Debbie Foster and her topic is Tapestry. Debbie is a dynamic speaker who is presently the supply pastor at Fairplay Presbyterian Church. All women in the church are invited to attend. Send your name and a check for \$15 made out to Presbyterian Women to Joan Booth, 12 Yeoman Lane, Salem SC 29676. For more info, call Joan at 944-6147.

Holiday Time Out:

All Preschoolers (3 year olds – kindergarten) are invited to the church on Tuesday morning, December 29th from 9:30-11:30am to play, craft, and spend time together in post-Christmas fellowship. Reservations are needed – and can be made by emailing or calling Mary Gause at mary.gause@forthillchurch.org or 654-2061. Parent/Youth volunteers are welcome!

All 1st – 5th graders are invited to gather on December 29th for a Kids Afternoon Out. We're going to the movies to watch *The Princess and the Frog*, eat a little popcorn, then return to the church for a little playtime! Be watching your email and the bulletin for more specifics about times and cost as we get closer to the date. RSVP to Mary (mary.gause@forthillchurch.org or 654.2061) so we know just who to look for on the 29th! Looking forward to our time together! (We always welcome parent volunteers – and siblings can come if a parent joins us!)

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 (today) - 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 – Today we will go to Wal-Mart to buy Christmas presents for the family we adopted for Christmas. **Up-Coming Events** - **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 - Tonight we will shop for some needy families in our community. Bring \$10 to contribute to the gifts. Next Sunday: Youth group will not meet. Enjoy your Christmas holidays.

Up-Coming Events – **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 – 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. If you have any questions about the Musical Explorers program, please contact Kristy MacRae at krmacrae@hotmail.com.

The Chancel Choir will not meet again for rehearsal until the week of January 6.

OUTREACH

The Feed the 5000 collection (containers for donating at doors as you enter or leave) on 12/13/09 was \$65.50. The money goes to Clemson Community Care, Our Daily Bread, Golden Corner Food Bank and Safe Harbor II to buy food.

The Joy Gift Offering is received at Christmas. The Joy Gift offering assists church workers, missionaries, pastors, and their families in times of crisis. A portion of the offering also supports our Presbyterian Racial/Ethnic colleges. You may place your offering in an offering envelope provided in the pew or mark your check "Joy Gift."

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.

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): Bill Gause, AP for University Ministry: bill.gause@forthillchurch.org (654-3705)
Kerin Watts, University Ministry Intern: kerin.watts@forthillchurch.org (654-3705)

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, Clinta 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).
