



The Good News

Vol. XXXIII Issue 11
December 1, 2008



My dear brothers and sisters,

In my reading this week I came across a quote from one of my favorite TV shows from years ago (one of those that was too good to stay on the air for long), Northern Exposure: “Einstein said, ‘God does not play dice with the universe.’ But I don’t know. I think God gets a pretty big kick out of messing in people’s backyards.”

What do you think of God wandering in YOUR backyard? I rather like the idea. After all, the BACKyard is more personal than the FRONT. I like the idea that the creator of all the universe cares enough about me to come to call.

I admit there are some things I would just as soon God not see: the unraked leaves, the weeds that still mingle among the plants, the little bits of trash that somehow never get picked up until someone embarrasses me into doing it. Still, I want God to visit.

We are into the season of Advent now, that wonderful time of the church year that serves as a reminder that God HAS come to visit our collective backyard. Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem so many years ago was God coming to call in a way unprecedented in human history. It is a reminder that God cares.

I am looking forward to enjoying Advent and Christmas with you this year, our first together. The music, the story, and the fellowship we share will be wonderful. In the words of Tiny Tim, “God bless us, everyone!”

DAVID

POINTS OF INTEREST

- ▶ Calendar
- ▶ Upcoming DPC Events
- ▶ PYC Events
- ▶ Service to others
- ▶ Groups
- ▶ CHARLIE BROWN TREE



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 30, Dr. David Leininger , 1st Sunday in Advent:
 December 7, Rev. Dorothy Blackwelder, 2nd Sunday in Advent,
Communion, Text: Isaiah 40:1-11
 December 14, Dr. David Leininger, 3rd Sunday in Advent:
 December 21, Lessons and Carols, 4th Sunday in Advent
 Christmas Eve 5:00 Family Service with Storytelling by Becky Dingle
 7:00 Dr. David Leininger
 Communion and Candlelight, Nursery is provided for both services

OTHER ADVENT EVENTS



November 29 10:00 Decoration the Crismon Tree
 December 7 4:00 Advent Festival
 December 13 t.b.a. Annual Christmas Project Breakfast
 and Gift Giving
 December 14 11:30 PYC Cookie Walk and Fellowship Time after church
 December 17 12:00 Office Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and
 Gift Exchange
 December 17 6:00 High School Youth Christmas Party
 December 21 Deadline to place God's Gift Shop Orders

PYC EVENTS

December 3 6:00 Sr. High Youth Dinner at Kickin' Chicken
 December 7 4:00 Help with Advent Festival
 December 12-13 6:00 Lock-Out
 December 14 11:30 Cookie Walk
 December 17 6:00 High School Christmas Party
 at the Blackwelders



UPCOMING DPC EVENTS

Advent Festival

December 7

Join us for a wonderful evening of Christmas crafts and a pot luck soup and salad supper followed by a special Christmas program and dessert with coffee and hot chocolate. You will also have your family portraits made so they can be hung on our Church Family Christmas Tree in the fellowship hall. The fun starts at 4:30; RSVP in the church bulletin on Sunday or call the church office.

PYC Cookie Walk

December 14

Come down to the fellowship hall after church and walk the cookie mile. You may buy containers for \$5 or \$10 to fill with a delicious assortment of homemade cookies, or if you want to be green, you can bring your own container – the size of your container will determine the price. This is one of the fundraisers for the youth group that helps us go on trips like Faith in 3D and Montreat. We appreciate your support.



Fellowship Hour

December 14

The "First Sunday Fellowship" will actually be on the second Sunday this month so that you can spend time greeting one another after you have made your cookie purchases.

Children's Retreat

March 21-22

The presbytery is hosting a special overnight retreat for children, 5K-5th Grade, and their favorite adult at Bethelwoods. So bring your children or grandchildren for a fun time. John Lee took two of his grandsons last year and had a great time – ask him about it! Go to: www.chas-atlpresbytery.org for more information and a registration form.

Looking Ahead

First Sunday Fellowship on January 4

PYC Faith in 3D trip to Disney World on January 16-19

Oyster Roast on January 31

PYC Souper Bowl of Caring on February 1

PYC Talent Show Fundraiser on February 8

Annual Church **Retreat at Bethelwoods** on March 27-29

Spring **Gulf Coast Mission Trip** on April 4-10



Upcoming
Events

ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This Advent Season, as for the past 29 years, families in our congregation have been asked to share the gift of love with needy families in our community.



On Sunday, November 23rd, members pulled items from the Charlie Brown Tree.

The gifts and food items will be distributed on Saturday, December 13. We will only have one week to sort and prepare the gifts and food baskets so it is **very important** that all gifts and food be brought to the church on December 7.

If you were not able to pull a gift tag on Sunday, but want to help, please call Robin Bowers.

As God so freely shared with us in the birth of His Son, our Savior, so we are invited to share that very love in this caring manner.

NEWS SPOT

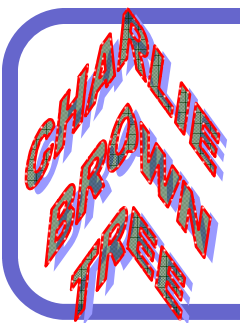
Several of our members have been spotted on the news in November: Matthew Oswald was taped while working for the Red Cross. Russ Blackwelder was interviewed while serving dinner at Crisis Ministries, and you could spot Melanie Oswald, Wade Yates, and Carol Seavey working in the background.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2008 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

To be considered by the IRS as a 2008 charitable tax deduction, all contributions must be received by the church by December 31, 2008, and if mailed, must be post marked no later than December 31, 2008.

Karene Feltner, Bookkeeper



NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forester Doug here,

"Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, Please to put a penny in the old man's hat!"

"Deck the halls with boughs of holly ..." and *"The holly and the ivy ..."* are old English Christmas carols.

Thus, the English settlers that came to this New World already knew about HOLLY. The species that grows there is English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The family name of all hollies is *Ilex*. Well, the holly that grows here is AMERICAN HOLLY (*Ilex opaca*).

Our holly has thick, stiff, leathery, evergreen leaves with spines along the edges. The bark of larger trees is light gray and smooth. The flowers about 1/4-inch across with four white petals in short clusters at the base of new leaves and along twigs in the spring. Now it is important to remember that all the hollies are dioecious, that means the female flowers are on one tree, and the male flowers are on a different tree. This feature explains why some trees have red berries and some do not.



The wood of HOLLY is almost white and of even texture. It was used for inlays and marquetry on musical instruments and furniture. It is of interest that it can be dyed or stained to many shades and colors. Actually, this very white wood was stained black to substitute for ebony wood used for the black piano keys.

Holly trees are found in eastern USA from Massachusetts to Florida on the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, but only rarely in the mountains. George Washington was fond of holly and planted them at Mount Vernon.

On the church grounds, there is a holly on the walk to the Good Shepherd School, and another near the plaque for the wildlife sanctuary. But, if you are brave, look for them along the trails in our woods.

As Burl Ives used to sing: *"have a holly, jolly Christmas"*.

'til next year, Forester Doug

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We have been very busy working on our Charlie Brown quilts, prayer shawls and making plans for the year.

In October, we donated 10 quilts to the Ronald McDonald house for the children in the hospital. We donated gifts for the residents that live at The Presbyterian Village for Christmas in November. We also plan to decorate the Christmas tree in December.

We will have our December meeting on the 18th at the Presbyterian Village in the chapel at 11:15. We invite the residents to join us for the meeting and Bible study, and we join them for lunch in the cafeteria; it gives us the opportunity to visit with the families there. In order for the Village to prepare enough food we need to know how many ladies want to join us, lunch is \$6.00

We are now able to print more of our cook books, "**Dorchester Delights**" and plan to have them available in time for Christmas. On December 13, we will dedicate the prayer shawls we have ready and they will be available in the fellowship hall after the worship service. We do not charge for the prayer shawls but can accept a donation in order to purchase additional yarn to continue this ministry. Anyone that needs a shawl before this date, please contact Sandy Nunn at 851-2548.



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER 10

11:30 A.M.

**Make plans to Meet at OSCAR'S
on west 5th North Street (Hwy. 78)**

Someone from the calling committee will be contacting you earlier in the month than usual to take your reservation! Watch the weekly bulletin for more information. All seniors over 50 are welcome!

NEW MINISTRY TO THE PALMETTO HOUSE

In order to establish a stronger relationship with the Palmetto House, the Service and Outreach Committee is asking for individuals of the congregation to volunteer for 2 hours once a month. The time on Saturday will be used to teach the residents of the Palmetto House some skill or activity in which the church member is proficient. This program began in November and will continue once a month. Each volunteer will serve one month.

Suggested skills or activities could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Sewing | Crocheting | Applying Makeup |
| Quilting | Cooking | Personal Defense |
| Weaving | Flower Arranging | Creative Writing |
| Carpentry | First Aid | Budget Building |
| Art in any medium | | |

Your supplies and assistance will be provided by the Service and Outreach Committee. Please call Mary Lee (871-1585) or Robin Bowers (873-4548) for more details.



SYMPATHY

Edna M. Hess, age 99, mother of Milt Hess, died November 12, 2008. peacefully in her sleep in Summerville. Burial was in Pennsylvania. A memorial will be held Monday, November 24, at 6:30 p at Dorchester Presbyterian Church.


STEWARDSHIP REPORT thru November 16

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Income needed to date: | \$ 300,437.50 |
| Income received to date: | \$ 284,657.85 |
| Variance: | \$ -15,779.65 |



BIRTH

Kamryn Reese Wickersham, daughter of Scott and Corinne Wickersham and granddaughter of Bob and Sarah Wickersham, was born November 4, 2008, Weighing 7lb 1 oz, 19-1/4" long. *Congratulations!*



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