



# The Good News

My dear sisters and brothers,

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
~Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1850



2009 has arrived. I hope the year just past was good to you, and I hope even more that the year to come will be even better. Henry Ward Beecher, one of the great preachers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century said, "Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past."

That sounds reminiscent of the Apostle Paul who also insisted that we face forward rather than back. To the church at Philippi he wrote, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:14b-15). Good advice as we begin a new year.

What will 2009 bring to Dorchester Presbyterian? Well, 2008 was not exactly uneventful - Richard Cushman's retirement after 32 years, my own "retirement" that brought me back home to South Carolina and an opportunity to be with you. There are exciting new possibilities that await us as we explore the future God has for us in this place. No doubt we will examine new mission initiatives, we will find new avenues of service, new leaders will emerge, plus who knows how much else. There will be changes, of that we can be sure. Some will be good, some not so good - that is inevitable; let us resolve to evaluate everything we do so that the good can be encouraged and the bad quickly eliminated. On balance, I am sure that the good will predominate.

My family and I have appreciated the warmth of your Summerville welcome and certainly your cards and remembrances during the Christmas just past. You have been most kind and we are very grateful. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2009 with you. Keep us in your prayers. See you at worship.

Your pastor and friend,

*David*

### PYC EVENTS

January 11	6:00	Parents' Night
January 14	6:00	Sr. High dinner at Senior Tequila's
January 16-19		Faith in 3D (trip to Disney World)
January 28	6:00	Sr. High dinner at NYPD Pizza

The Older Youth Sunday School class (grade 8-12) continues a DVD study called "Simply Enough: Straight Talk from Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne on Simple, Just Living." This series focuses on lifestyle, food, celebrations, stuff, money, and justice – calling us to responsible action. When they finish this series, they will watch another DVD series called "*The Justice Mission: Reflecting the Heart of God for the Oppressed of the World.*" This series is thought-provoking and asks youth to answer God's call to seek justice on the earth.



### SPRING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We currently have three fantastic Adult Sunday School classes. We hope that you find one that meets your needs and nurtures your faith. If you have any questions, or have ideas for a new class, please speak with Dorothy.

The Present Word class continues its study of *People of Commitment* in Luke and the Old Testament. "God calls, we respond. That's a basic truth of biblical faith. How we respond determines our level of commitment to Christ and the church. Learn how other responded to God's call and ask yourself, "How should I respond?" This class meets in F-201 and is led by Wade Yates, Ramona Smith, and Jim Mallory.

The Christian Viewpoints class uses media to guide discussions relating the Christian life to our current culture. They meet in the church office and are led by Jason Gamble.

The For Today class has just begun a video based study of the book of Revelation called *Breaking the Code*. "The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. This series provides trustworthy guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical book." This class meets in F-203 and is led by Julie Burchette.

Upcoming  
Events

## UPCOMING DPC EVENTS

### Oyster Roast

January 31

You don't want to miss this wonderful annual event. We will gather around the oyster tables until you just can't eat anymore. And for the non-oyster eaters out there, there will be hotdogs. And don't forget to bring your best chili to enter in the chili cook-off - prizes will be awarded for the top three. Sign-up in your bulletin or call the church office beginning January 11<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship!

### Souper Bowl of Caring

February 1

Each year on Super Bowl Sunday, Dorchester's youth participate in this national fundraising drive to help end hunger. Last year, they raised over \$800 for our brothers and sisters in Darfur...let's beat our record this year, especially when so many are suffering in our local economy. Fill those soup pots!

### PYC Talent Show Fundraiser

February 8

We witnessed during our Lessons and Carols service that *Dorchester's Got Talent*. Join the youth for an evening of food, fellowship, and quality entertainment. Dinner will be served; the cost is \$10 a person. In addition to an audience, the youth will also be looking for hidden talents - can you play an instrument, sing, juggle, make balloon animals? If so, we want you to participate - the more the merrier. The funds collected at this event will help the youth go on trips such as Faith in 3D, Montreat, and the Middle School Conference. Tickets will go on sale soon.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

First Sunday Fellowship on February 1

Annual Church Retreat at Bethelwoods on March 27-29

Spring Gulf Coast Mission Trip on April 4-10



### LOST AND FOUND

Do you know where your dishes are? After the Stewardship Dinner, Advent Festival, Cookie Walk and Charlie Brown Breakfast, there are many of your containers and serving dishes in the fellowship kitchen. If you think you might be missing one, please go over and check out the selection.

Upcoming  
Events

### THANK YOU

My family and I want to sincerely thank you for all your loving thoughtfulness during Simon's long illness this past year and his death on September 7th. Thank you for the beautiful cards, the visits, the food that was brought in and especially your prayers, all of this helped us so much to get through this difficult time. I am so privileged to be a part of such a loving family as Dorchester Presbyterian Church. May God bless you all and thank you again.

vermodis (vee) Slade



### A NEW YEARS WISH

In a recent sermon, Dorothy talked about meaningful ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus and how creative gifting for people and organizations outside our own comfort zones might be considered as an option.

Covenant Counseling Center of SC is located in Jedburg and is a non-profit organization that is a non-denominational, faith-based facility for providing counseling for people going through tough times. Regardless if it's dealing with the death of a child or a spouse, marital issues, blended family issues, depression, anxiety, etc., our Center tries to assist clients even if their finances/insurance aren't sufficient. I am the current Chairman of the Board of Directors and our previous pastor also served on the BOD for a while. If you or a family member/friend have had the opportunity to have counseling restore brokenness of spirit back to wholeness, you realize what a vital mission our facility serves.

Like all other non-profits, our budget has been impacted—just like yours—during these tough economic times. My New Years wish is: if Santa brought a new computer, monitor or laptop to your home and you have a “gently” used one that you would like to find new home for, please keep us in mind. If it's loaded with Windows XP, Microsoft Office or Excel, that's even more appreciated. A receipt for a tax write-off can be provided. Oh, yeah, monetary donations are great, too!! Some of our previous contributors, such as Charleston Atlantic Presbytery, have had to pare down their local mission vision and financial support by withdrawing their funding to us. This, in turn, has an impact on how much CCCSC is able to accomplish within the community.

I appreciate your prayerful consideration and I trust that you and your family have a safe and blessed New Years.

Sandra Salmon, 875-2632

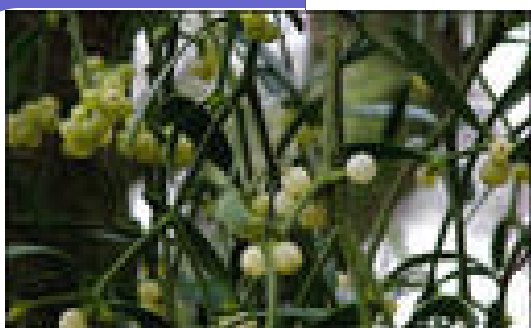
# NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forester Doug here,

I've been raking leaves. Leaf raking is an enjoyable task, good exercise, and gives a sense of accomplishment looking out over the clean lawn. I enjoy raking leaves, but with a limit of one bag a day!



That's not really what I planned to tell about! Now that the leaves have mostly fallen and the treetops are just branches and twigs, one can see bunches of vegetation there. No, not the brown, leafy squirrel nests! There are some green branchy plants there. These green branchy growths are MISTLETOE (*Phoradendron serotinum*). Why are the Mistletoe plants so high up in there treetops? Well, they are parasites. Yes, parasites! Mistletoe has small rounded green leaves and white berries. The berries mature in the fall so they are present at Christmas time, which is why they have been part of our historic Christmas decorations. These white berries have a seed, which is coated with a sticky substance that is poisonous to us humans. Birds eat the berries and get the sticky stuff on their beaks and feet and leave them stuck on the tree branches where they germinate. Now, the Mistletoe doesn't have a root, it has a haustorium, which penetrates the bark of the host plant. The next stage of development is formation of "sinker" which expand from the haustorium and invade the cambium and wood rays, siphoning off the host's sap for its own benefit. That's what parasites do, feed off the host! Back in June I presented CANCER ROOT, another parasite, but on the roots of oak trees.



Mistletoe has long been of interest. The Druids, priests/wisemen of the Celts in England, Scotland and Ireland in the early centuries A.D., reportedly held religious ceremonies in oak groves and cut mistletoe with god sickles. Just when it became a custom here to kiss someone "standing under the mistletoe", I don't know. But, keep your eyes up and open during the holidays ... and do look for the bunches of green in the leafless treetops.

Hoping 2009 won't be as full of surprises as 2008, live well and prosper!

*Forester Doug*



## CRISIS MINISTRIES SHELTER

Since 1985 members and friends of Dorchester Presbyterian Church have prepared and served the evening meal at the Inter-faith Crisis Ministries shelter for the homeless in Charleston, on the third Tuesday of every other month, in addition to supplying breakfast food for the following morning. We serve an average of 110 men, and each time it takes many people to prepare and provide the food for these two meals. Dinner includes fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, bread, brownies, and lemonade. For breakfast we take cereal, hard-boiled eggs, milk, orange juice, coffee, creamer and sugar.

We will be preparing and serving dinner at the shelter on Tuesday, January 20. Please look for the sign-up sheet and basket in the narthex. Our funds for purchasing chicken, potato salad, and other supplies are rapidly depleting. Your help is needed and sincerely appreciated.

*Service and Outreach*



## GRADUATION

Caroline Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Paul and Vicki Campbell, received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Human Resource Management cum laude at the Fall Commencement Ceremony December 18, 2008 from Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. *Congratulations, Caroline.*

## GOD'S GIFT SHOP

We have exciting news to share concerning our God's Gift Shop totals for 2008. We had 34 families participating and collected \$4,473.97—both over double from 2007!

Thank you to all who participated this year. You have definitely made a difference in the lives of many others whose needs are far greater than ours.

*Pam Stewart  
Service & Outreach Committee*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

thru  
December 31, 2008

Income needed to date:	\$ 339,625.00
Income received to date:	\$ 320,788.11
Variance:	\$ -18,836.89

