



# FIRST PRESS

Volume 29, Issue 12  
December 2010

First Presbyterian Church [www.fpclsy.org](http://www.fpclsy.org)

Dear John,

When I was growing up we seldom saw any snow, so lots of the store windows were “flocked” with a spray-on variety of the “white stuff.” Back then we felt we were kind of getting gypped – not having the chance to enjoy a snowfall. We didn’t realize how convenient things are without snow or how inconvenient snow can be.

The fact is snow is a commodity we usually remember for one or two reasons: for the pleasures it offers or the disruptions it causes to traffic, airports, schedules, and holiday plans. But mostly it’s taken for granted. I’ve read that one-quarter of the globe – about forty-eight million square miles – is covered with snow at some time during the year. Worldwide at least one-third of the water used for irrigation comes from snow. Out West, most farmers are dependent on mountain snow run-off to fill the reservoirs and provide the water they need for their crops during the dry summer months.

Most astounding to me is the insistence of researchers that no two snowflakes are alike. That staggers the imagination! To our eyes some flakes may look very similar, but a precise match is a statistical impossibility. Scientists point to the vastness of the numbers involved. They calculate that a one-centimeter cube of ice contains 30,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 molecules, give or take. Which means a snowflake might contain something like 100,000,000,000,000,000,000 water molecules. Imagine the variety of combinations of snowflakes that could be made from one hundred million million million water molecules! I get dizzy just thinking about it.

The seventeenth century German astronomer, physicist, and mathematician Johannes Kepler was intrigued by the fact that snowflakes were always six-cornered. “Why do they not fall just as well with five corners or with seven?” he wondered. He was unable to explain the flakes’ hexagonal form. Call it God’s mystery.

There are lots of wonderful mysteries to ponder around Christmas time, aren’t there?

Your friend, Gus

**CHRISTMASTIME AT FPC**

<b>Dec. 5 - 5:00 P.M.</b>	Hanging of the Greens
<b>Dec. 5 - 6:00 P.M.</b>	Advent Dinner
<b>Dec. 12 - 4:00 P.M.</b>	Chancel Choir Concert
<b>Dec. 15 - 6:00 P.M.</b>	Family Night Dinner/Christmas Pageant
<b>Dec. 24 - 5:00 P.M.</b>	Christmas Eve Family Service (Nursery provided)
<b>Dec. 24 - 11:00 P.M.</b>	Christmas Eve Communion Service
<b>Dec. 26 - 11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>Worship</b> One Service only No Sunday School
<b>Jan. 2 - 8:45 A.M.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>10:00 A.M.</b>	Sunday School
<b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>Worship</b>

**“HANGING OF THE GREENS” DINNER  
December 5, 2010  
6:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall**



The Christian Explorations Sunday School Class would like to invite the congregation for fellowship, conversation, and dinner following the “Hanging of the Greens” service on December 5, 2010. The service begins at 5:00 P.M. with dinner fol-

lowing in the Fellowship Hall. What a festive time for fellowship! Please make your reservation at the sign-up table in the narthex by December 1, 2010 so we can adequately serve all attending. A contribution basket will be placed at the door. We look forward to seeing you there!

**COFFEE WITH THE PARISH NURSE**

Join friends and the parish nurse for a cup of coffee and helpful dialogue. Relax and learn about nightshade plants and other herbs and vegetables. Keep track of your weight on her scale. Fellowship begins at 9:30 A.M. and lasts until 11:30 A.M.



**ANGEL OF THE MONTH**



Wow! Be sure to check out the updated bathrooms right outside of Fellowship Hall. They are beautifully renovated thanks to our Angel of the Month, Marjorie Grabeel. We all appreciate that she shared her time and decorating talent with our church family.

Thank you, Marjorie!



**Service of Lessons and Carols,  
December 12:**

Mark your calendars now for the Chancel Choir's presentation of a traditional service of lessons and carols on **Sunday, December 12 at 4:00 P.M. in the sanctuary.** Invite your friends and neighbors and get your Christmas season off to a great start!

**HELP NEEDED:**



**Citrus sale to support the work of  
Churches for Urban Ministry**

The fruit for all the churches will arrive at Westminster Presbyterian Church sometime on December 6, 7, or 8. Sandra Wilson will need help unloading the fruit when the 797 boxes (11,230 lbs) arrive. We will not know the arrival until shortly before the boxes arrive. If you are willing to help, please give Sandra your telephone number. We usually have a 24-hour notice. There is work for everyone. There are jobs that do NOT include lifting. We usually have everything unloaded within one and a half hours. We then sort the boxes into church piles and begin distributing the fruit to the various churches. Please call or e-mail your name and telephone number to Sandra Wilson, 384-3963, or [wilson1821@comcast.net](mailto:wilson1821@comcast.net).

IF YOU ORDERED FRUIT YOURSELF, YOU WILL RECEIVE A CALL TO LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOU CAN PICK UP THE FRUIT AT THE HOME OF SANDRA WILSON, 5316 HICKORY HILL DRIVE. If your fruit is being delivered, you will still receive a telephone call informing you of its delivery. Please do not come to pick up your fruit until you receive a call.

Many thanks to all who ordered fruit. Camp Timothy is a marvelous Christian ministry that serves children in our community. Its ministry has produced a loyal following, and the leadership comes from its own ranks!

## FINANCIALLY SPEAKING. . .

### As of October 30, 2010:



Income Budgeted to date:	\$704,596
Income Actual to date:	\$664,464
Expenses Budgeted to date:	\$787,818
Expenses Actual to date:	\$735,308

In October our actual expenses exceeded our actual giving, resulting in a current deficit of about \$70,800. We appreciate the faithful giving from our members and friends, and we hope to return soon to operating in the black.

## CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Thirty-third Annual Toy Drive  
Jericho Baptist Missionary Chapel  
606 Fifth Street, Lynchburg  
434-845-0834



Here is an easy way to help a family this Christmas! Please bring new or gently used toys to church for the thirty-third Annual Jericho Church Toy Drive and place them in the barrel in the foyer. Jericho is trying to collect enough toys to give at least five hundred children a special Christmas holiday. No time to shop? Your tax deductible gifts can be given to Jericho Outreach Ministries, Inc. and can be sent directly to Jericho Church or left in the church office. Please bring your toys and gifts by December 20. Toy distribution will be December 23, 6:00 P.M. at Jericho.

## The Single Adult Fellowship

will get together for lunch on **Sunday, December 12**. We will meet at **King's Island** by 12:30 P.M.



## FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

### Statements Sent Out First Week of December.

Statements will be sent *only* to those individuals who have not yet completed payments on their 2010 pledge. This is just an up-to-date status report for your information. *Please review the report*, and if you have any questions, contact Lori Wright at the church office or by EMAIL at [lori@fpclly.org](mailto:lori@fpclly.org)

### Attention Stock Contributors:

Please make every effort to make **stock gift transfers by December 15**. This will allow time for the gifts to be transferred to our accounts and proceeds to be received by year end. Proceeds received after year end require much additional handling at a very busy time of year. *Thank you.*

### Expense Reimbursements:

Please be sure to submit any requests for reimbursement of budget year 2010 expenses by December 29. Any check written after December 31, 2010 will be charged to the 2011 budget.

### 2010 Contributions Deadline:

Contributions received in the office by close of business December 31 or *postmarked* on or before December 31 will be posted to contribution statements for the 2010 tax year. Payments postmarked after December 31 or left at the church after that date will be posted to the 2011 tax year.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Lori Wright in the Business Office.

## REFLECTIONS ON MARVA DAWN'S VISIT and THE YEAR OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

As we move through our year of The Christian Family, it is hard to imagine a more inspiring yet challenging guest than Marva Dawn.

Through her series of presentations, she encouraged us to get busy and take responsibility for what happens in our church. She helped us understand the sobering magnitude of the generational decline among active American Christians and some of the sociological influences that contributed to that dramatic loss. And finally, she shared proven ways to support our children and youth in developing a deep and abiding faith. As our audience chuckled at Marva's delightful humor, we were equally aware that she was delivering a steady stream of thought-provoking information and ideas. She left us deep in thought, challenged us to build our faith future with our children, and closed with the implicit charge that we continue the conversation and turn ideas into actions in our committees, our Sunday school classes, and with our Christian friends.

The Planning and Implementation Committee wants to sincerely thank all of the members of our congregation who so generously helped host Marva Dawn during her visit. We are grateful for various drivers, those who hosted her for meals or helped provide refreshments at our events, but most of all, we thank you who made an effort to attend this important event in the life of our church.

We are excited about the energy this year's focus on the Christian family and children has given to our congregation and look forward to the many special events that are yet to come.

## HEALTH DURING THE HOLIDAYS

We are upon that most blessed of times in the Christian Year--Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany. These are busy times because we take on the additional responsibilities of special celebrations and services at church, gatherings with family and friends, preparing gifts for loved ones, and reaching out to those in need. Physical health, despite our busyness, has to remain on our "radar screens."

These five-minute health tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention take little time and have big payoffs:

- 1) Buckle up every time you get into a vehicle. Be sure children are buckled into the safety or booster seats appropriate for their age and size.
- 2) Wash hands with soap and running water for twenty seconds before eating, after using the restroom, and after coughing, sneezing, and blowing your nose.
- 3) Test smoke alarms every month and change the batteries twice a year.
- 4) Read food labels to help you know how many calories you are eating and to help you select foods that are low in fat and sodium and high in fiber.
- 5) Review vaccinations to make sure everyone in your house is up-to-date. If not, visit your physician to get any missing vaccinations. Your physician has information on recommended vaccinations, or you can get this information on line at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines). Be sure your family and you get the seasonal flu vaccine.
- 6) And last but not least, strive to maintain your exercise program during the holiday season.

I enjoyed your great gift: my being a part of your journey for the past year. I hope you have a healthy and blessed Christmastide.

Gail Midkiff  
Parish Nurse



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                                |                          |                               |                            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Pettyjohn, Mary Macon | <b>10</b> Buhler, Frank  | Rumney, Blair                 | Varner, Bill               |
| Pumphrey, Kathy                | Lichford, Bambi          | Smith, Ransom                 | <b>21</b> Craighill, Sally |
| <b>2</b> Gravely, Carey        | Riordan, Karen           | <b>16</b> Fraley, Mary Ellen  | Kidd, Lauren               |
| Hartman, Marilyn               | <b>11</b> Giles, Frances | Will, Kelly                   | Pflieger, Dana             |
| Howard, Elizabeth              | Richards, Christopher    | <b>17</b> Barrett, Janice     | <b>22</b> Stone, Mike      |
| <b>3</b> McBratney, Marcia     | Richards, Ed             | Bennetet, Mary Mac            | Warrick, Jean              |
| Strunk, Jeannette              | Walker, Jean             | Esckridge, Emma               | Wood, Susan                |
| <b>4</b> Milam, Marcia         | <b>12</b> Adams, Tricia  | Lifsey, Emmett                | <b>23</b> Lewis, Van       |
| Shilling, Marcy                | Burton, Jeb IV           | Nexsen, Ferrell               | Nexsen, Court              |
| <b>5</b> Perry, Mike           | Claiborne, Jenn          | <b>18</b> Cosby, Terry        | Shank, Brittany            |
| <b>6</b> Douglass, Jim         | Harding, Moyanne         | Crockett, Joe                 | Strader, Martha            |
| Foster, Megan                  | Matthews, Shirley        | Jester, Whitney               | Thomas, Noël               |
| Higley, Dylan                  | Perry, Lee               | Walton, Bill                  | <b>25</b> Pettigrew, Will  |
| Mosby, Leyburn                 | <b>13</b> Armstrong, Meg | Wilson, Jeff                  | <b>27</b> Hamner, Doug     |
| Schuster, Marian               | Sublett, Jane            | <b>19</b> Arthur, Raine       | Pettigrew, Ann Kendall     |
| Weaver, Taylor                 | <b>14</b> Grabeel, Noah  | Heppner, Chris                | <b>28</b> Bird, Derek      |
| <b>7</b> Carrington, Hunter    | Kowalski, Wynne          | Wittschen, Marjorie           | Craddock, Emily            |
| Harris, John                   | Martin, Debbie           | <b>20</b> Carrington, Grayson | Keefer, Corlett            |
| Murphy, Nora                   | Niles, Dick              | Cleland, Judie                | <b>29</b> Burger, Mary     |
| Stowers, Richard               | <b>15</b> Guill, Larry   | Dupuis, Susan                 | Kittrell, Allie            |
| <b>8</b> Ailsworth, Bobby      | Johnson, Stuart          | Gallagher, Madison            | Leslie, Sally              |
| Savage, Dan                    | O'Brian, Bobby           | Hanna, Jack                   | Preston, Megan             |
| <b>9</b> Coffee, Bryce         | Owen, Charlie            | Strosnider, Nancy             | <b>30</b> Story, Henry     |
|                                |                          |                               | Weaver, Peyton             |

### MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS IN DECEMBER

**Peggy & Jensie Teague - 384-8106**  
**Ferrell Nexsen - 384-5271**

Thanks to Bertha Crockett and  
Patty Arthur for serving in November.

### REMINDER!!

**Various Community Events are  
posted on the bulletin board  
opposite the Pastor's Office.**

**Stop by to read about upcoming events.**



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

On **Monday, December 6, 2010**, the Coordinating Team will meet at **10:00 A.M.** in the library.

The Young and Not So Young Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 7, at 9:30 A.M.** in the library.

On **Monday, December 13, at 10:00 A.M.**, the Book Circle will meet in the library. The book to be discussed will be *Uncommon Carriers* by John McPhee.

The Horizon Circle will meet on **Monday, December 13, at 10:00 A.M.** in the Officer Room.

Following Circle meetings there will be a **General Meeting of Presbyterian Women in the Chapel at 11:15 A.M.** Ray Weidner will be the guest speaker, and there will be an installation of new officers, a memorial service, and a communion service, followed by brunch in the Narthex hosted by the Horizon Circle. All women of the church are cordially invited to attend.

The Evening Circle will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be **December 14**, at the home of Jeannette Strunk, 200 St. James Place, Lynchburg. Meet at 6:00 P.M. for a potluck dinner.

**NEW CORRESPONDENCE CARDS**

The Care & Nurture Committee congratulates **Hundley Burger** for her winning artwork submission that will grace the front of the Correspondence Cards used by the committee. Way to go Hundley!

**COME, CELEBRATE THE SEASON**

The Membership/Fellowship Committee invites you to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the joyous Christmas season with your church friends and family.



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15  
6:00-7:30 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL  
PAGEANT AT 6 P.M., IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK DINNER**

*Please bring a dish to share, and help us plan for your attendance by signing up in the Narthex.*



**THE SEASON OF JOY  
CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19  
9:30-10:00 A.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL**

*We'll be serving a parade of pancakes and all of the accompaniments, so line up and bring your holiday appetites! If you would like to contribute a fruit bowl or if you are able to assist in setting up, cooking, serving, or clean-up, please contact Sally Leslie at [cicver@msn.com](mailto:cicver@msn.com) or 384-9062.*

**These promise to be very special events – don't miss them!**

## Reminders

On Sunday, December 26, there will be only one service at 11:00 A.M. and no Sunday school. The regular schedule will resume on January 2.

Also take note that although Lynchburg City Schools have a long break in January, we will still be having Sunday school and youth group – so don't take a vacation from church too!

### “Hanging of the Greens”

“Hanging of the Greens” will take place Sunday evening, December 5, at 5:00 P.M. in the sanctuary. We thank all who have signed up to help make this service a success!

Remember, if you do sign up for a part, you must come to **one mandatory rehearsal** the day before the service, **Saturday, December 4.**

**Decorators, you will meet at 10:00 A.M. for a brief, no more than a thirty minute rehearsal, and readers, you will meet at 10:30 A.M. to read over your parts.**

All decorators and readers should **meet near the library on Sunday, December 5, at 4:15 P.M.** Don't worry – you will get a reminder postcard!

We'll see all of you at the service on December 5 at 5:00 P.M.!

### F.A.I.T.H. Mountain Sunday School

We are in need of a **teacher** for both the **games rotation and discovery rotation in March.** Please contact Meggan Farwell [meggan@fpcl.org](mailto:meggan@fpcl.org) if you are interested in teaching. Thanks and remember the children need you!

Thanks to our **November teachers:** Ken Kowalski, Blair Moseley, Bobby and Becky O'Brian, and Jennifer Clark.

We look forward to another great month with our **teachers for December:** John Perry, Claudia Pierpoint, Liza Pittard, and Lindsay Riordan.

## Youth News

### **Sunday, December 5 – 12:15 P.M. — Toy Run at Presbyterian Homes!**

Meet at the Presbyterian Homes at 12:15 P.M. for their annual Toy Run. Volunteers are needed to make and serve hot chocolate and coffee for the bikers who will arrive at 1:00 P.M. and bring toys for children who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas. Volunteers are also needed to serve pizza and other goodies. Don't worry about lunch; you are welcome to partake of the pizza and goodies as well. This is open to all youth and their families. Look for Chris Bryant when you get there.

### **Sunday, December 5 – 5:00 P.M. –**

**“Hanging of the Greens!”** Come to the sanctuary at 5:00 P.M. for the “Hanging of the Greens” service. Many of you have signed up to be a part of the service and for those that have not, come and support your friends and start the holiday season in the right spirit!

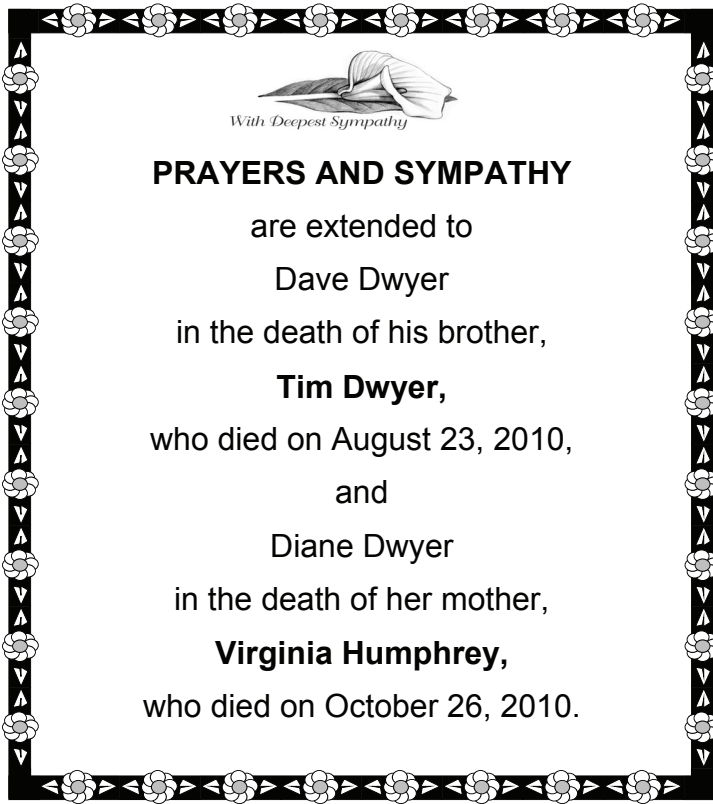
### **Sunday, December 12 – 4:30 - 6:30 P.M. –**

**Middle School Christmas Party!** Come celebrate Christmas and bring a wrapped gift with a \$10.00 value that is suitable for a guy or girl. **Bring \$3.00 for dinner.**

### **Sunday, December 19 – 4:30 – 6:30 P.M. –**

**High School Christmas Party!** Come celebrate Christmas and bring a wrapped gift with a \$10.00 value that is suitable for a guy or girl. **Bring \$3.00 for dinner.**

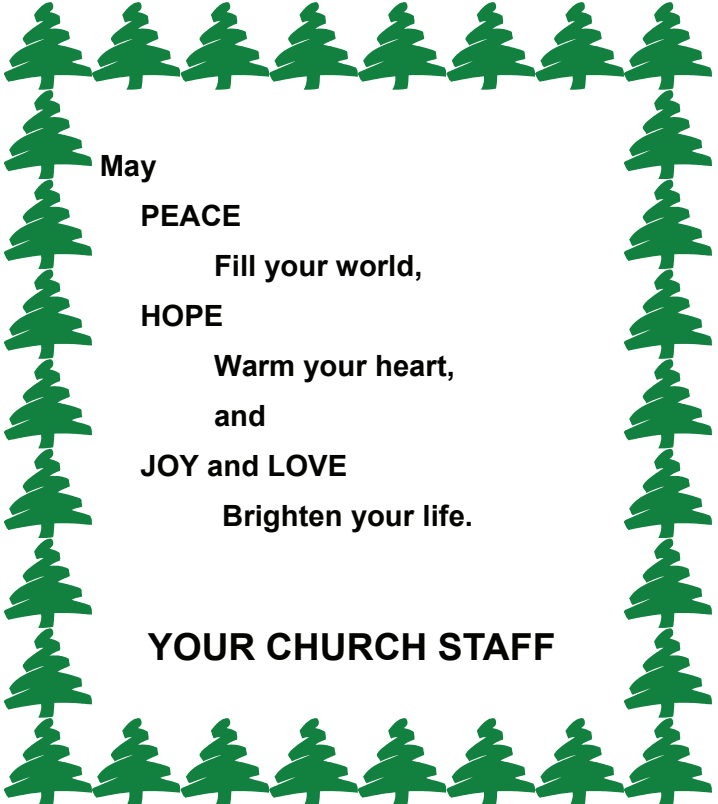
### **Sunday, December 26 – Merry Christmas – No Youth Group!**



*With Deepest Sympathy*

**PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY**

are extended to  
Dave Dwyer  
in the death of his brother,  
**Tim Dwyer,**  
who died on August 23, 2010,  
and  
Diane Dwyer  
in the death of her mother,  
**Virginia Humphrey,**  
who died on October 26, 2010.



May

**PEACE**

Fill your world,

**HOPE**

Warm your heart,

and

**JOY and LOVE**

Brighten your life.

**YOUR CHURCH STAFF**

**Next Newsletter: January 2011**  
**DEADLINE: Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010**

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Email: [info@fpclly.org](mailto:info@fpclly.org)

