

FOCUS

February 22, 2012

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. XIX, No. 7

Sunday, February 26, 2012

MORNING WORSHIP ~ 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH SCHOOL ~ 9:45 a.m.

"Discipleship Dangers!"

Psalm 25:1-10 Mark 4:1-20

1st Nights @ First ~ 6:00 p.m.

ELDERS GREETING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE

John Brabham, Jr., Walt Bracewell, Michael Blanding,
Wesley Blanding

GREETERS AT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Nancyhunter & Michael Blanding

TAPE MINISTRY

Jimmy Wood, Kim Harrelson, Susan Weston,
Nancyhunter Blanding

TELLER DUTY

Jack Spivey, Burke Watson

ELDERS IN CHARGE OF VISITING - Feb. 26 - March 3

Bert Montague & Clyde Reese

USHERS

(8:30) Michael Self (Head usher), Neise Self
(11:00) Dave McInnis (Head usher), Larry Scheele,
Burke Watson, Jimmy Wood
Junior Ushers: John Bracewell & Bo Brogdon

SUNDAY STEPHEN MINISTER - Judy Mey

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE VOLUNTEERS

Committee Member - Meg Hill

Nursery - Mae Barnes

2 & 3 Year Olds - Laura Brogdon

4 & 5 Year Olds - Linda Nock

This Week at FPC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:30 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School - Classes for All Ages
11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Divine Drama Discovery Classroom
5:00 p.m. Youth Handbells Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. 1st Nights @ First

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Session Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:00 a.m. MSY Breakfast Murray's Donuts

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

7:00 a.m. HSY Breakfast Chick Fil-A
5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Youth Group West Building
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

1:00 p.m. Quilting Class Fellowship Hall

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The Tuesday morning men's Bible study group will begin a showing of "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST" on Tuesday March 7th at the West Youth Center. Showtime is 7:00am. All are invited to join for viewing and discussion.

FROM MARK'S DESK . . .

THERE GOES WINTER, HERE COMES SPRING!

Wow, the weeks and months do fly by! And they are filled with wonderful times of celebration, service and the joy of the Lord. At the beginning of this month of February we joined with congregations across America in the *Souper Bowl of Caring*, where you generously gave over \$1500 to the local work of United Ministries, serving and supporting people and families in need every day of the year here in Sumter. Incidentally, I've mentioned the remarkable fact that every bit of the dollars given on Souper Bowl weekend go to the support of local ministries in every participating town. One question that sometimes goes unasked is, "So how do they run the organization if all the donations stay in local places?" And the answer is that they have to raise their supporting funds separately, from supporting congregations and individuals who believe in the ministry enough to support it apart from Souper Bowl Sunday donations. Souper Bowl is one group that Angie and I believe in and support as a personal family charity in addition to our church and we'd encourage you to do the same.

The second Sunday of February was our *Kirkin' O the Tartans* service and was glorious and festive as usual. The unusual addition this year was our new (to us) Bagpiper Evan Johnson and his Drummer and sister Campbell Johnson, both of whom are strikingly young and even more strikingly accomplished! Evan and Campbell led our procession and recession of tartan bearers with energy, with dignity and perfect execution. It was a thrilling thing to be a part of and a perfect celebration of the way in which Jesus Christ transforms all of our tribal loyalties into perfect communion within his worldwide household of faith and service.

Last weekend we worshiped at the beach and here at home. Those of us at the Church Retreat were treated to a wonderful time of Bible-centered teaching from Robert J. Morgan, who worked his way through his *Red Sea Rules* with us and gave us an informative and encouraging tour through the hymn-singing history of the Christian church on Sunday morning. And where February often finds us indoors for the whole weekend, Friday evening and all day Saturday we had a beautiful day for getting outside and enjoying the winter sun. Here in Sumter, many of you have reported with pleasure the return of Chris Scott to our pulpit for Sunday morning and I have heard with even more pleasure that Chris preached to a sizeable worshipping congregation of those who were home for the weekend.

This Sunday marks the beginning of *the season of Lent* (from a Latin word for 'lengthening'), commemorating the stretching, the reaching of our spirits toward the promise of renewal, the longing of our hearts and physical selves for the coming of spring, displayed for us spiritually and preeminently in the day of Easter celebration. As such, Lent is a time for cleaning out the attics and basements of our souls, for starting over with the Lord, seizing the opportunity of beginning again to move toward that fullness of life which we know in our hearts is our birthright as the children of God. We'll see you in worship this week!

Grace to you and peace,
Mark

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YOUTH NEWS . . .

For this Sunday, February 26th:

Youth Mission Afternoon, Crosswell Children’s Home, 2-4:45pm. We will meet at the West Youth Center at 2:00 to travel together to Crosswell Children’s Home to spend some time with the residents. We hope your youth will join us!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 4, for the purpose of voting on changes to the Associate Pastor’s terms of call and to elect two members-at-large from the congregation to serve on the Church Officer Nominating Committee.



WEST SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the West Scholarship are now being accepted. Eligible candidates are active First Presbyterian Church members that are high school seniors planning to attend college next year. Applications are available at the church office. Completed applications are due in the church office by April 1, 2012.



CINDERELLA PROJECT

It is time once again for our annual Cinderella Project. There are many young ladies in Sumter who are dreaming about their prom night and we are calling on the Fairy Godmothers among us by asking for donations of formal gowns as well as monetary donations to help ease the financial strain that a purchase such as this can put on a family. Please bring any donations to the church no later than March 3. Monetary donations should be marked “Cinderella Project.” Your support is greatly appreciated. Please contact Summer Holmes at summerholmes@sc.rr.com with any questions.



SUGGESTIONS FOR OFFICERS BEING RECEIVED

Recommendations for the office of Elder and Deacon are now being received from the congregation by the Officer Nominating Committee.

The Book of Order, Presbyterian Church, USA, sets down the following qualifications for officers:

- ▶ **ELDERS** - Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgement. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.
- ▶ **DEACONS** - The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgement should be chosen for this office.

Members wishing to make recommendations should turn in the name(s) to the Church office using the form below. Recommendations must be received by March 11th.

Suggestions of persons whom you wish to be considered for nomination as Elder.

Suggestions of persons whom you wish to be considered for nomination as Deacon.

Comments on the above.

Signature

**Sumter-Clarendon Cluster
of The Presbytery of New Harmony
2012 Lenten Luncheon Series**

The Wednesday noontime (12-1) devotion and fellowship, which includes lunch (no charge), is scheduled as follows:

Date	Location	Speaker
2/29	Fraser Memorial	Rev. Frank Colclough
3/7	Second Presbyterian	Rev. Josie Holler
3/14	First Presbyterian	Rev. Carnell Hampton
3/21	Concord Presbyterian	Rev. Paul Abell
3/28	Fraser Presbyterian	Rev. Samuel Sparks



NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Enrollment for school year 2012/2013 will begin Monday, February 27, for currently enrolled students, siblings, church members and grandchildren of church members. Open enrollment begins Monday, March 5. Registration will continue until all classes are filled.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer Observance for 2012 will be held Friday, March 2, at 4:30 in the Chapel of Grace Baptist Church. Christians all over the world will be participating in this common day of prayer. With a theme of “peace and welcome,” this year’s program was prepared by the WDP Committee of Malaysia. All women, men and youth are invited.



KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

Tuomey: Sylvia Kinder

Covenant Place: Irene Scarborough, Mac Spencer

Home: Aileen Abbott, Sarah Margaret Branham,
Mike Baird (Caroline Sigmon’s son)



IN MEMORY

Samuel Marvin Hunter, Jr.

February 18, 2012

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY of the ministers and members is extended to the family of Sam Hunter.



FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Received Week Beginning 2/12/2012.	\$10,968.75
Needed Each Week	\$19,836.87
Received Year-to-Date	\$156,050.98
Pledges & Offerings Received	\$144,073.49
Other Income	\$11,977.49
Expenses Year-to-Date	\$138,422.56
Budget Year-to-Date	\$138,858.09

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