

# the Epistle

First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina 28170

November 2011

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## All Saints' Sunday

By Mary W. Anderson

On All Saints' Sunday the names of those people who have passed on are read with reverence and thanks in front of the entire congregation. Who are all these saints? Even though many of the hymns for this day refer to the saints of old who shone in glory, most of us prefer saints closer to home. Our communion of saints is a more familiar crowd: those who died in our congregations in the past year, our own parents and grandparents. It's a great day to remember all of those who have gone before us, the ones on whose shoulders we stand, the ones whose lives and witness have brought us to this new day.

We can study the history of our faith and proudly say we are where we are today because our ancestors in the faith raised their voices, made bold decisions, and prayed and taught the faith. We are where we are today because our ancestors were willing to go to jail, to be thrown to the lions, and be burned at the stake. We are here today because our ancestors fought for religious freedom, braved and explored a new world to establish churches in America, and spread the gospel. They did all these things because they loved Jesus, but also because they loved us: their descendants whom they would never know. They loved us so much that they wanted to make sure the story of the gospel was here for us. We are who we are today because of their faith, devotion and bravery.

But, wait a minute. These saints were not our only ancestors. Isn't it also true that we are here today, that we are who we are, in the condition in which we find ourselves, because we also had biological and spiritual ancestors who sat on their hands, who cared only for themselves, who thought little about the impact of their actions on future generations? We are also the products of those who were apathetic in their witness. We are the biological and spiritual descendants, for example, of those who advocated a racially segregated society. We are related to people who argued against women's ordination. And we may have to admit that some in our heritage shrugged their shoulders in the face of oppression and greed. We are products both of those ancestors who fought for the faith and of those who fought against the faith. We are the descendants of both

sets of grandparents. We have saints in our blood and skeletons in our closets.

Congregations, too, are the spiritual grandchildren of wonderful stewards who gave their all, and of generations of curmudgeons who threw water on the Spirit's fire every chance they got. What type of ancestor do we – who by baptism are part of the communion of saints – hope to be?

One of these All Saints' Days our names will be read. We are the potential saints for future generations. We are the shoulders on which others will stand. Will we be ancestors who sat on their hands or ancestors who raised their hands? Sometimes we forget that we aren't just living our busy lives. We're also laying a foundation, molding a future and establishing a legacy. How is it going?

Will we leave a legacy of justice, or will we leave a bequest of selfishness? Those we admire as witnesses to Christ are the ones we believe are our best examples of living the simple commands of Jesus to love God with our whole selves and our neighbor as ourselves. Those who do, Jesus said, are not far from the kingdom of God. Being a saint means living in hope and not in despair. It means forgiving, not judging; loving, not despising; lifting up, not tearing down. Being a saint means that you can mock evil (what we do on Halloween) rather than being afraid of it or controlled by it.

In this dying of the year, this time of harvest, we would do well to take stock as well as reminisce. When the low G sounds on the organ, announcing the beginning of R. Vaughan Williams's tune to the hymn *For All the Saints*, I feel as though the rumbling of that low bass note calls us to worship the communion of saints. It is a call to St. Peter and St. Paul, to Mary Magdalene and Mother Teresa, to Martin Luther and Martin Luther King, Jr. As we remember these strong shoulders on which we stand, we are challenged to strengthen our own shoulders. We are ancestors in the making, after all, saints for a generation yet unborn. It is an awesome opportunity. Rise up, O saints of God!

*The Rev. Mary W. Anderson is the pastor of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina.*

**All Saints Sunday will be November 6<sup>th</sup>. Please notify the Church Office with names of loved ones that should be on the list.**

## SESSION

The next stated meeting of Session will be Sunday, November 13, after Worship. Minutes are posted on the bulletin board.



## MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

Performed by The Charlotte Symphony on December 1, 2011, 7:30 PM at the Belk Theater in Charlotte. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. Anyone interested in attending this special Christmas performance, talk to Jeanne Price, Anne Trexler, or the Church Office for details and possible carpooling. The church receives a portion back from ticket sales.



**Daylight Saving Time Ends November 6<sup>th</sup>.**  
*Don't Forget to Set Your Clocks Back One Hour.*

## **MEMBER CARE NOTES**



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Next Men's Breakfast – November 6,  
8:00 AM.

### MEMBER CARE EVENTS

After the very busy month of October with Feeding the Bearcats, Fall Fun Night at Brenda and Jim Morgan's home, and the Fish Fry, we are looking forward to a meaningful Thanksgiving season at our church. First Presbyterian will host the Interchurch Council's Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at 7:00. Please plan to remain after the service for light refreshments as we welcome our two new clergypersons to the Interchurch Council, The Rev. Dr. Leslie Stacks, and Father Jean Pierre. Father Pierre is the new priest assigned to Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

### CHURCH DIRECTORIES

If you were photographed by Lifetouch for the directory, please pick up your family's copy of the directory in the handbell room.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Honor your friend or loved one with a contribution to First Presbyterian Women of the Church.

#### Contributions

In Honor of Emily Patterson & Peggy Trexler by  
Alice Grimes

## **WORSHIP NOTES/ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### SACRAMENT OF LORD'S SUPPER



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Do this in  
Remembrance of Me.

### POINSETTIAS

Christmas Poinsettias will be placed in the church for the Advent Season. If you would like to place one in the church in honor or memory of someone, please complete a form or notify the Church Office by November 13<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be \$12 each.



### DECORATING FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

November 20, 2011



Let's get in the Christmas spirit by decorating the church on November 20 after church services. Bring a finger food and we will snack and decorate at the same time. We need one person to direct this decorating effort and to tell people where things go.

### BIBLE STUDY

*Wired Word*

*Tuesdays @ 6:00 PM*

*Wednesdays @ 5:00 PM*

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE



**7:00 PM - Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
at First Presbyterian Church**

The InterChurch Council Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Rev. Dr. Leslie Stacks will be the worship leader with all the downtown ministers taking part in the service. The offering collected at the service is split between Anson Crisis Ministry and the InterChurch Council.



### NOTES FROM JANICE



The Chancel choir has begun work on our Christmas Cantata entitled "Tapestry of Light" by Joseph Martin. This will be presented at Morning Worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We are practicing the cantata at the beginning of the rehearsal so that visiting singers can leave when we begin our regular service music rehearsal. If you are interested in singing in our cantata and can't join us on a regular basis, we would be happy for you to join us!

Our handbell choir has also begun working on Advent/Christmas selections and other special music. We will be using "singing bell", malleting, and other special techniques. We are very happy to have Amanda Gunter as a new member of our handbell choir! We miss Thomas Huntley who is in college at UNCG. He will still be helping us out when he can, though.

#### Rehearsal Times:

**Handbell Choir:** Wednesdays at 6:00 PM  
**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays at 7:00 PM  
**Cherub Choir:** Sundays at 9:45 AM

## **MISSION**

### FOOD LION MVP REWARDS

We received a check from Food Lion for our second period earnings through August 31, 2011. The check was in the amount of \$78.03. Year-to-date, we have received \$180.64. Thank you to all who have registered your Food Lion MVP cards and for shopping to support FPC.

## ANSON CRISIS MINISTRY NEEDS

November is the month that we are to provide Anson Crisis Ministry with canned mixed vegetables or canned potatoes. These items may be left in the provided container as you enter the church.

We also need a volunteer to take the items to Anson Crisis Ministry at the end of each month. If you would be willing to volunteer, please call the Church Office. We give a word of "Thanks" to Thomas Huntley who has done this in the past. Since he is now in college out of town, we need a new volunteer.

### 2011 YARD SALE FOR MISSIONS

Thanks to your hard work, our net profit to date is \$827.96. Thank you to all who helped by donating items to sell or volunteering your time!

### FOOD PANTRY: WACOM

*November Food Pantry:*

*Set-Up – November 12<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM*

*Distribution – November 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30-10:00 AM*

### WACOM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We need volunteers to help unload the trucks when food is picked up from Second Harvest in Charlotte. A big truck is taken to pick up this food and we need some strong backs to help unload it after the truck returns to the church. This involves a large amount of food. These trips are usually on a Friday once a month. Help would be needed on Friday afternoon. Please let anyone on the Mission Ministry, any member of Session, or the Church Office know if you would be willing to help! Let them know how to contact you and you will be called letting you know the exact date each month that they will need your help. *We also need more help in distributing food.*

### OFFERINGS

**\$2 Per Family Offering for the Mission Fund:**  
November 6<sup>th</sup>

**10¢-A-Meal Offering:** November 27<sup>th</sup>

*10¢ a Meal, 30¢ a day, \$2.10 a week, \$9.00 a month*

### CROPWALK

Thanks to everyone who donated or walked in the CROP Hunger Walk. Anson County raised \$835.00 and had 72 walkers. Hopefully, we can double or triple the numbers next year.

## BELK CHARITY DAY SALE

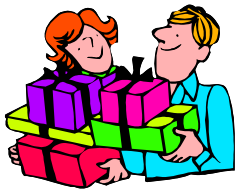
Belk is having their Charity day sale on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-10:00AM, at any Belk store. The first 100 early birds get free gift cards valued at anywhere between \$5 to \$1,000. Tickets are \$5 each. Ticket holders will receive 20% - 70% off Belk purchases storewide, including special savings on rarely discounted brands. If you can't go on that date, you can reserve your merchandise between October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> and present your ticket to a Belk associate and ask them for details on reserving your purchase. You can also pre-shop and pick your purchase up beginning November 4<sup>th</sup>.

FPC keeps 100% of the \$5 ticket cost for the sale, and it will go straight to the church's general fund. Also, tickets sold by Belk that morning will be divided up among charities participating. It seems to be a "no lose" project for us, and you get your \$5 off your first item purchased. Support your church in any way you can. Please get your ticket in advance so we will get 100% of the proceeds of every ticket sold. Tickets will be available at church on Sundays or in the Church Office.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are participating again this year in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Box gifts. Each member is asked to prepare and bring at least one shoe box to the church. Brochures describing how to pack the shoe box are available at each entrance to the church. Deadline for collection of the boxes is Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.



## **PROPERTY/FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION**

### **Dedication Sunday-November 13, 2011**

*Because God loves the world and Christ gave his life for it, God's Spirit calls us as individuals and as the Church to respond in gratitude with our lives and resources.*

Look for your stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail and please prayerfully reflect on how you will support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church in 2012.

You can mail your completed card to the church or bring it with you to worship on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

*"...Serve the Lord faithfully with all your heart, consider what great things God has done for you."*  
1 Samuel 12:24

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Each week, we need \$3,264.00 to meet budget for the General Account. Below is a list of the amounts we have received in past weeks:

Oct. 2	\$2,862.26
Oct. 9	\$2,472.50
Oct. 16	\$ 793.50
Oct. 23	\$1,532.50

\$13,056.00 was needed for this period and we received \$7,660.76 – shortage of \$5,395.24. Shortage since January 1, 2011 is \$50,717.53.





## FLOWER CALENDAR

November 6	Cletis Trexler
November 13	Shirley Harward
November 20	Dianne Deese
November 27	Poinsettias

(You have the option of using the silk flower arrangement for a donation of \$25 to the Mission Fund or you can make arrangements to have fresh flowers delivered from a florist. Call the Church Office for details.)

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

November 6	Luke & Anne Hyatt
November 13	James & Jeanne Price
November 20	Bryan & Gretchen Trexler
November 27	David & Peggy Trexler

## ACOLYTE/GREETER SCHEDULE

November 6	Trista Trexler
November 13	Ava Phillips
November 20	Ryder Price
November 27	Luke Trexler

## USHER SCHEDULE

**November 6**  
 Foyle Hightower  
 Brenda Morgan  
 Hugh Wallace  
 Alex McLeod

**November 13**  
 Bob Stowe  
 Eddie Huntley  
 Danny Deese  
 Jim Strayhorn

**November 20**  
 Calvin Catoe  
 John Edwards  
 Jeanne Price  
 Ashe Ratliff

**November 27**  
 Bryan Trexler  
 Jim Boylin  
 Glenn Trexler  
 Jerry Ridenhour

**Note:** Ushers need to be at church by 10:45 AM. If you cannot usher, it is your responsibility to get a replacement.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
 PO Box 351  
 Wadesboro NC 28170

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***Happy Thanksgiving!***

(The Church Office will be closed  
 November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.)