

Service of Divine Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

Preparation for Worship

Prelude "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach
*Chimes Sounding the Hour
*Time of Greeting
Announcements
Choral Call to Worship
Solemn Declaration - - Amen Sung

Praise to God

*Hymn "Arise, the Kingdom is at Hand" No. 93
(Sung to the tune of "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna")

*Responsive Call to Worship (Luke 1: 76-79, "Child" here refers to John the Baptist)

Minister: "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

People: To give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

Minister: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

People: To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

*Gloria Patri
Invocation

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer for the Confession of Sin

Gracious and compassionate God, we confess before you that our feet are not always directed in the ways of peace. We confess that we often choose to sit in the darkness, so fearing the approach of death and suffering and failure that we know not where to direct our feet. We act as if we are unaware that through your tender mercy, the dawn from on high has both already broken upon us and will do so again, and again, until such time as we awaken from our stupors, coming to the full consciousness of Jesus Christ Himself. Forgive us our twilight awareness in which John the Baptist finds us, still, even now, not yet prepared to receive the One who is coming among us, even though He is already among us. Forgive us for confusing His peace with the mere absence of conflict. Guide us toward His peace which is full of His love for all of us—His love for all peoples everywhere—expressing and living a sacrificial love so great that not even John the Baptist

can fully take it in. Yet, John and we have become your people by accepting Christ's forgiveness of our sins, offering in turn to forgive others, thus at last truly guiding our feet in the way of peace; in the Name of Jesus Christ, Lord at His birth, we pray. Amen.

The Kyrie and Assurance of Pardon --- Amen Sung

Witness of Faith

Second Advent Wreath Liturgy --- PEACE Edgar, Kivi, Ava, and Jianna Miller
Lay Leader: We have lit a candle of HOPE.

(Light the first Advent candle.)

People: We celebrate the light of HOPE, for it signifies a quickening of spirit among us, one that begins to push aside despair and hopelessness, one that begins to awaken us as chosen children of the Living God, one that helps us to remember our God-given affinity for the Light.

Lay Leader: Our second candle is the candle of PEACE.

People: This candle of PEACE is a light unto our feet, one that begins to push back upon our fears of the darkening future, our fears of death.

Lay Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, come among us, Lord at your birth.

(Light the second Advent candle.)

People: We celebrate the light of PEACE. Come, Lord Jesus, come among us, the very Prince of Peace, the very dawn of the Most High that is breaking upon us: helping us to grow calm, helping us not to stumble, helping us to go forth with confidence as your PEACE moves through our souls and bodies, guiding us forth with you. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Moment

Anthem "Cradle Hymn" Martin

Proclamation of the Word

The New Testament Reading Luke 1:59-79 (Page #932 of Pew Bible)

Meditation **JOHN THE BAPTIST, NELSON MANDELA,
AND GUIDING OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE**

Response Through Dedication

Invitation to Give

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Preparation for Obedience in the World

*Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 88

*Responsive Call to Dedication

Leader: And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

People: Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*The Benediction

*Postlude "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" Matthews

***THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND**

WE WELCOME VISITORS who are attending our service of worship today. **EVERYONE** is requested to sign the attendance pad found at the end of each pew. We request visitors also to note their addresses and telephone numbers.

USHERS: Walter Hoffman, Ann Hoffman, June Grubb, Doris Sink

PLATE ATTENDANT: John Potts

ACOLYTES: Ashley Johnson and Kalyssa Hutchens

GREETERS: Alice and James Gray

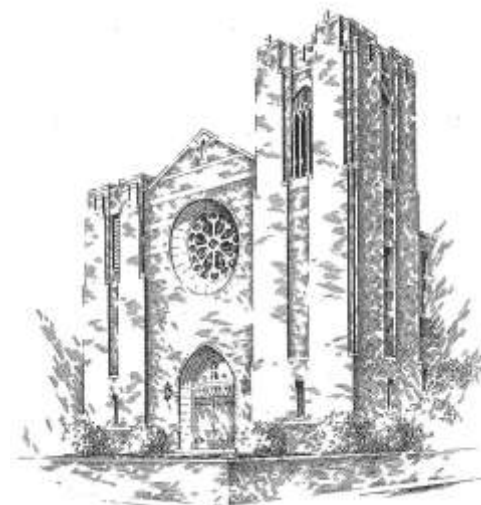
NURSERY (Birth through 6 years-old): Dawn Shaak

PRAYER CONCERNS: Ethel Bailey, Rita Tussey, Hilda Leonard, Sadie Bailey, Ronnie Durham, Arlene Swing, Margaret Trexler, Jacqueline Leonard, Frances Leonard, Joel Reece, Juanita and Henry Beck, Ernestine and Henry Kennedy, Willie Ruth Leonard, Ron Yates (Eddie's Father), Paul Stevens (Lisa Nelson's Cousin), Melvin Evans (Paul Freeman's Uncle), Ernie Bonner, Jacob Berrier, and Susan Cadwallader (Anne Fletcher's Mother). To place a name on the prayer chain, please call Adena Wall at 249-1904 or the church office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 6	9:45 a.m. ----- JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL {LESSON: WILLING WORKERS CLASS}
	10:20 a.m. ----- SS SOCIAL {HOST: JOHN & VICKY GRAY AND NINA & TED SMITH}
	11:00 a.m. ----- WORSHIP SERVICE {SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT}
	2:30 & 5 p.m. ---- COMMUNITY CANDLELIGHT CONCERT {Smith Civic Center}
Wednesday, December 9	11:30 a.m. ----- FRIENDSHIP CLUB MEETS TO GO TO PIEDMONT CROSSING
	6:30 p.m. ----- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE (FH)
	7:00 p.m. ----- Adult Choir Practice
Thursday, December 10	United Way Using Education Building
	5:30 p.m. ----- YOGA Class {Parlor}
Friday, December 11	10:00 a.m. ----- Smart Start {Fellowship Hall}
Saturday, December 12	10:00 a.m. ----- Choir Rehearses With Orchestra
Sunday, December 13	9:45 a.m. ----- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR EVERYONE
	11:00 a.m. ----- CHRISTMAS CANTATA {THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT}
	7:00 p.m. ----- CONSISTORY MEETING {New Members for 2010 Invited}

First Reformed United Church of Christ



Where People Discover - - -

The Love of God

The Power to Love Others

The Ability to Love Ourselves

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Lexington, NC 27292

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Sunday, December 6, 2009



Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 13, 2009

The First Reformed UCC Choir along with a professional group of instrumentalists will present the annual Christmas Cantata, **Sunday, December 13th** at the morning worship service.

Holiday Bake Sale

Women's Life Fellowship will hold a bake sale **Sunday, December 20th** beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come early and have one of Mary Jo's famous sausage biscuits or a muffin with some coffee or juice for breakfast. There will be a variety of baked goods along with tea mixes, cookie mixes, and unique gift ideas to purchase. These will make wonderful gifts for teachers, neighbors, friends, and even for you. Items will be sold before Sunday school, between Sunday school and worship, and immediately following the worship service. If there is anything left over, it will be available for purchase at the children's Christmas program that night. All monies raised will help the mission work of our circle. Thank you for your support!



Tree of Angels



The tree of "angels" is in the breezeway of the education building again this year. Make a donation (your discretion) to place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of someone. **ALL donations** will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for assistance to needy individuals/families. Please fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate or contact the church office if you are interested.

In Memory Of...

By...

In Honor Of...

By...

Veterans of the Cross Offering

Plan to donate to the "**Veterans of the Cross**" Sunday, December 20th. This offering is an expression of love and thanks to those who have served and continue to serve the United Church of Christ. The offering helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.



Church Christmas Party

Sunday, December 20th



The annual Christmas Party for the congregation will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 20th with a covered dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends. Drinks are provided. After dinner the children will present, "The Not So Silent Night". This evening is a great tradition of fellowship with family and friends that is enjoyed by children of ALL ages. Remember to bring your cameras. Santa will be on hand to check his Christmas list!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The church will be aglow with candlelight at our annual Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight and Carols at **9:00 p.m. Thursday, December 24th**. Come celebrate this evening of wonder with family and friends.



If you purchased a poinsettia it can be picked up today to enjoy at home during the Advent Season.

November 29, 2009 Attendance (Worship 102)
November 30, 2008 Attendance (Worship 108)

Offering Received \$4,265.00
Needed each Sunday to meet Budget \$5,574.00

Church Staff

Reverend Walter Patten, Ph.D., Intentional Interim Minister
(Cell #336-420-2728 Home #336-632-1985)
Lee Ann Peele, Organist

Amy McNeill, Director of Christian Education
Paul Freeman, Choir Director
Paula Lopp, Administrative Asst