



# First Presbyterian Church

December 2012

Jacksonville, Alabama

## What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because Advent and Christmas shine a light not only on our world's greatest hope but also on our world's greatest need, the PC (USA) provides this timely opportunity for congregations to support causes specifically designed to bring "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10) to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Alongside the message of promise and fulfillment in Luke's

Gospel, we also hear the clear call to God's people to respond in faith as Christ calls us: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48). Undesignated gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

### Session Notes — November Meeting

Jetta Manners, Clerk of the Session

- ◆ Moment for Stewardship Budget will be given December 2nd.
- ◆ There will be a reception after the Christmas Hymn Festival.
- ◆ The 150th anniversary of John Pelham, Civil War hero will be March 16-17, 2013. The Gallant Pelham was a member of First Presbyterian Church. The church will be open both afternoons. There will also be other programs in town during these two days.

*A Gift to First Presbyterian*  
***A Christmas Hymn Festival***  
*Provided by the Christmas Camerata*  
*and Susie F. Dempsey*  
*For Singing and Hearing*  
***The Hymns of Christmas***  
***Sunday, December 16***  
***3pm***  
*Reception following in Fellowship Hall*

## Announcements



### Stated Session Meeting

Sunday, December 9

### Church Dinner

Sunday, December 16

### Christmas Hymn Festival

December 16 3pm

### Presbyterians on the Go

Norman Rockwell Exhibit

December 20

Leaving 8:30 from Covenant Church

Tickets—\$12 (senior citizens)

### Christmas Joy Offering

December 23

### Christmas Eve Service

December 24 7pm

Rev. Monty Clendenin preaching

### Youth Worship Service

December 30, Morning Worship

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### Jr. and Sr. High Science and Math

Tutoring/Homework Workshop

Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm

Call the church or Laura Underhill for more information.

### Knitter's Night

3rd Wednesday of each month

6:30pm

### December Sermons

#### December 2

*Redemption Is Drawing Near*

*Luke 21:25-36*

#### December 9

*Benedictus*

*Luke 1:68-79*

#### December 16

*Preach It, John!*

*Luke 3:7-18*

### Bible Study Opportunities

Wednesday morning — *A Thrill of Hope*

*The Christmas Story in Word and Art*

∞

Sunday, December 9th — Christmas Gathering at the Veasey's house at 5pm



Find us on [Facebook](#) at First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Alabama

# First Presbyterian Church

200 Clinton Street SE  
P.O. Box 355  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Phone: 256-435-6340  
Fax: 256-435-1039  
E-mail: [fpcecy@bellsouth.net](mailto:fpcecy@bellsouth.net)



Address Label

## Advent in a Nutshell



“Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.” This familiar table grace is also an Advent prayer, full of hope and longing. In Advent, although we are preparing for the annual Christmas commemoration of Jesus’ birth long ago in Bethlehem, we are also keenly aware of the need for Jesus to come again, bringing the fullness of peace and justice with his promised reign. The Ad-

vent story begins with the God of Israel, who saw the sufferings of the people enslaved in Egypt and came down to deliver them. This same God sees the suffering of people today and will come again, bringing freedom from pain and death. The coming of Jesus promises life to all creation and assures victory over all God’s enemies.

Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. It begins on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday closest to November 30<sup>th</sup>, and ends on Christmas Eve.

The parament color for Advent is purple, the color of peni-

tence and fasting and the color of royalty to welcome the Advent King. It is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week.

### Personalities of Advent

The story we tell during Advent unfolds through the words and actions of the supporting cast: John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus; John’s parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, who sing of the Savior to come; the angel Gabriel, who appears with startling news; Mary, the willing servant of the Lord; and Joseph, the courageous implementer of God’s strange directives. Throughout the telling of the story, the Hebrew prophets reappear, they who learned, even in the desolation of exile, to read the signs of hope for God’s promised reign and foresaw the coming of a just ruler, springing from the throne of David.





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# December 2012



200 Clinton Street SE  
 P.O. Box 355  
 Jacksonville, AL 36265  
 256-435-6340  
 256-435-1920 Fax  
 E-mail: fpcsecy@bellsouth.net

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Spiritual Disciplines 5pm	3   Happy Birthday! Ethelyn Brown	4	5  Bible Study 10am	6	7	8   Happy Birthday! Robert MacRae
9 Stated Session Meeting 12:30  Bible Study Christmas Gathering Veasey House 5pm	10   Dec. 9th Happy Birthday! Gary Brown	11	12  Bible Study 10am	13	14	15
16 3rd Sunday Dinner  Christmas Hymn Festival 3pm  Reception Following in Fellowship Hall	17	18	19  Bible Study 10am  Knitter's Night 6:30pm	20  Presbyterians on the Go Norman Rockwell Exhibit Birmingham Leaving 8:30am Covenant Church	21	22
23  Christmas Joy Offering	24  Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25  Merry Christmas!  	26   Happy Birthday! Steve Underhill	27	28	29   Happy Birthday! Bonnie Seymour
30	31					

## December Worship Plan

**December 2** *1st Sunday in Advent*  
**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**  
 Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36  
 Reverend Tom Winter preaching

**December 9** *2nd Sunday in Advent*  
 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6  
 Reverend Tom preaching

**December 16** *3rd Sunday in Advent*  
 Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18  
 Reverend Tom Winter preaching

**December 23** *4th Sunday of Advent*  
 Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)  
 Reverend Monty Clendenin preaching

**December 30** *1st Sunday after Christmas Day*  
 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52  
 Youth Worship Service



### December Opportunities for Service Schedule

**Elder Greeter:** David Talley

**Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:** December 2

*Servers: Gary Brown, Ivan Ratzlaff, David Talley and Steve Underhill*

Date	Ushers	Lay Readers
December 2	Ethelyn Brown and Don Seymour	Barbara Franklin
December 9	Wayne Claeren and David Talley	Jordan Falk
December 16	Glen and Barbara Franklin	Nancy Stewart
December 23	Toby and Austin Falk	Virginia MacRae
December 30	Carlton and Sharon Ward	David Talley

### Prayer List

Please keep the following people in your prayers.



**Mary Lois Dempsey**  
*Wayne Dempsey's mother*



**Bobby Haynes**

**Paul Long**  
*Laura Underhill's Former Coach*

**Stacy Boozer Mariani**

**Ken Mount**

**Dan and Millie Neisler**

**Sharon Padgett** *Carolyn Padgett's sister*

**Lee Pope**

*If you would like to include a name on this list, please call or email the church office.*



### Thank You!!

To all who purchased Poinsettias and all who came out and helped decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season. It looks beautiful!



#### Lay Reader and Usher Lists

We are in the process of updating the Lay Reader and Usher List for 2013. If you are on either list and wish to continue, no action is needed.

If you wish to be taken off either list or if you would like to be added, please contact Mary in the church office.



### December Birthdays

- 3 Ethelyn Brown
- 8 Robert MacRae
- 9 Gary Brown
- 26 Steve Underhill
- 29 Bonnie Seymour



POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, December 16

Sharon and Carlton Ward  
 Mary Agnes and Glenn Hester  
 Hannah Underhill

