

FPC SCROLL

the monthly newsletter of

First Presbyterian Church
4227 Broadway
Grove City, OH 43123

Rev. Robert R. Tolar, Jr., Pastor



FPC ADVENT ACTIVITIES

at a glance



Children's Christmas Proors

December 11 – 6:30pm
Come, enjoy
“The Case of the Missing Meaning.”
Bring your family
and friends.

December 11 - Both Services
The Handbell choir will play
“He Is Born!”
(arranged by Derek K. Hakes)



Christmas Cantata

December 18 – Both Services
Chancel Choir Cantata:
*“Tapestry of Light:
A Celtic Christmas Celebration”*

December 24 - 7:00 and 9:00 pm,
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES



December 25
Traditional Worship Service
at 9:00am

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**January SCROLL
DEADLINE:
December 11, 2011**

Due to the holidays,
Sunday School classes will
NOT meet on December 25
and January 1.



New Year's Day
WORSHIP SERVICE

January 1
Traditional Worship Service
at 9:00am.
Regular schedule begins
January 8, 2012.

The FPC Music Department wishes you a blessed Advent season and offers the following special music for Advent:

December 11 - The Handbell choir will play *He Is Born!*, arranged by Derek K. Hakes, at both services.

December 18 – The Chancel Choir will present *Tapestry of Light: A Celtic Christmas Celebration*, by Joseph M. Martin, at both worship services (9& 11:15am)

From the composer: The music of Christmas is a treasure for both the ear and the heart. Each winter it covers our lives with a hopeful blanket of sound and reminds us that even in the silence of winter, there is song. Each tradition offers its own rich vocabulary of holiday carols joining together faith and art into a glorious fabric of melody and truth. From angelic acclamations to delicate lullabies, the message of God’s love leaps from the pages of our songbooks and finds a home in the tender places of our hearts. *Tapestry of Light* is a joining of traditional carols, primarily from the British Isles, with scripture reading and candle lighting. I was inspired by recent trips to Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England to create a work that celebrates the rich heritage of seasonal song that is part of this great tradition. We invite you to join us in the presentation of *Tapestry of Light*.

December 24 - Several members of the congregation will offer their music talents for worship on Christmas Eve, including the Instrumental Ensemble.

Please join us in worship, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord.



The Deacons will once again be displaying our mitten/hat/glove tree in the narthex during the holidays. We will decorate the tree with mittens/hats/gloves donated by our congregation. The donated items will be given to the Central Community House who passes these items on to needy families. The next time you are shopping, buy an item for our tree and help someone stay warm this winter.



Central Community House
At Our House, People Are Central

Central Community House has been serving the people of the Near East side of Columbus for the past 75 years in the settlement house tradition. The mission of CCH is to empower people to reach their full potential, be self-supporting, and live cooperatively with all others. The mittens/hats/gloves from your Mitten Tree will be used to support families in need in one of three program areas: the Early Education Child Care Center, Community Services, or Youth and Family Services.



To find out more about CCH, visit www.cchouse.org.



***Do you want to be the best Mom possible?
You are not alone!***

Come join the Mothers of Preschoolers.
Our next meeting will be Friday, December 2nd from 9:30-11:30am.
For more information contact Letitia at MOPSmom2@gmail.com.
Childcare will be provided.



PRESBY CLUB

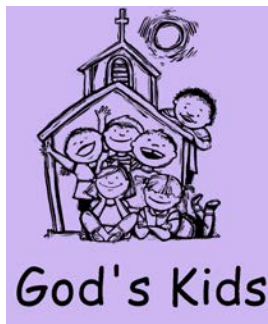
Thank you to all who purchased Buckeyes. All money raised will be used to purchase gifts for kids at Franklin County Children's Services. The next Presby Club meeting is at 5:30 on Sunday, December 4th. We'll head to the store to purchase our FCCS gifts.

If you have questions about Presby Club, please contact Diane Cordle (871-1504 or dcordle9@columbus.rr.com) or Jan Miller (871-2789)

Kids, grades K-4th

God's Kids will not meet in December. The next meeting will be at 4:30pm on January 8, 2012.

If you have any questions about God's Kids, contact Connie Price (440-1998).



Sunday School Bible Breakfast

Beginning in January, the Christian Education Committee will hold a *Bible Breakfast* starting at 10:10am on the first Sunday of each month for grades K-12. Since the first Sunday in January is New Year's Day, we will have the *Bible Breakfast* on the second Sunday in January, January 8th.

FROM THE DEACONS

NEED A RIDE...

To church or to a doctor's appointment? If so, the Deacons can help. Contact Karl Knight (740-852-0796, kathykarlk@msn.com) or Judy Linder (875-0824) to request a ride. If you are able to provide transportation for those in our congregation, please let Karl or Judy know.

ARE YOU ILL OR HOMEBOUND?

The Deacons request you contact them for any news of illnesses, injuries, or hospitalizations. Please call the church office (875-4322), Phil Holdren (614-875-2109) one of the Deacons.

HAVE A NEED?

If you have a need and the Deacons can help, call the church office (875-4322) or let one of the Deacons know.

"Holiness has never been the driving force of the majority. It is, however, mandatory for anyone who wants to enter the kingdom.

-- Elisabeth Elliot

Session Meeting Highlights for November 2011

- Pastor Tolar opened the meeting with prayer.
- Deacon Judy Linder reported to Session on the **Deacons'** activities.
- Treasurer Greg Grinch presented updates on current balances and income as of 10/3/11.
- Session was made aware, by Greg Grinch and Teresa Long, of **possible changes** on the property west of FPC.
- The House Committee has set an **FPC Work Day** for **December 3**.
- The Worship Committee announced that **Christmas Eve** services will be held at 7 PM and 9 PM. And on **Christmas Day** there will be only one service, the Traditional Service at 9 AM.
- The Stewardship Committee updated Session on all the activities and plans underway for the **2012 Stewardship Campaign**.
- The Membership Committee apprised Session about the '**Football Tailgate Activity**' held on Saturday, November 12.
- The Personnel Committee continues to search for a **Contemporary Worship Music Leader**.
- Christian Education Committee discussed future plans for the **Sunday School program**.
- Set the date for the next Session meeting for **Sunday, December 11**.
- Pastor Tolar closed the meeting with prayer.

Highlights were compiled and prepared by: Howard Turner, Clerk of Session

Issued: 11/15/11

PW BOARD

JUNE 2011-2012

Moderator - Debra Niles 539-9954

Vice-Moderator - Helen Huntington
539-9853

Secretary - to be determined
Treasurer

Gwen Miller 875-2477

Missions - to be determined

Moderator - Faith Circle

Susan Renick 871-1824

Moderator - Peace Circle

Debbie Wilson 875-7325



12/01 Sharon Brown	12/24 Liz Cline
Harry Long	Phyllis Gibbs
12/04 Joyce Davis	Becky Lykins
12/06 Connie Channell	12/25 Joe Lawless
Diane Cordle	Arianna Smedley
12/08 Wanda McCready	12/27 Martha Adams
12/10 Steve Nelson	12/28 George McCready
12/13 Sherry Kuehnle	12/30 Lauren Davidson
12/16 Robert Kuehnle	Kyle Irwin
12/19 Greg Miller	
Edna Strickler	
12/21 Jim Baumgardner	
Ruth Hammond	
Wanda Shope	

Happy Birthday, Jesus!



The family and
friends of
Naomi Wilson.

Being away from home for the holidays is hard, no matter the reason. Please take a minute to send a card or note to:

B. Wesley Mills
380 Shinandong
Jinju, South Korea 660-756

(Postage for a regular size card is 96 cents.)

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. (Robert Louis Stevenson)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 1st
Beckie & Paul Steele
December 11th
Chelsea & Nathan Bobulski
December 15th
Barbara & Bob Lewis
December 17th
Marion & Jeff Lawless
December 24th
Charlotte & George Catlin
December 27th
Brenda & Roy Steinhoff



SEND A CARD...

Please take a minute to send a note or a card to those in our FPC Family who are in the military:

1LT Tyler Wiltshire
684th ASMC
Shindand Airbase
APO AE 09382

At this writing Shawn Hannon is in Mississippi and will soon head to California for training. He will be home for Christmas before being deployed to Afghanistan.

Jordan Davidson is currently in Afghanistan. For security reasons, we will not publish his address, but greetings can be sent to Brian and Kelley Davidson who will forward them to him in one of their weekly mailings.

Having a loved one deployed is hard on those left behind, so take a minute to send a card to the families waiting at home. Addresses can be found on the bulletin bar beside the church office.

For the Man Who Hated Christmas By Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years. It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

(originally published in the December 14, 1982 issue of *Woman's Day* magazine)

Christmas Gift Suggestions:

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

Oren Arnold



This Advent we look to the Wise Men to teach us where to focus our attention.

We set our sights on things above, where God is. We draw closer to Jesus... When our Advent journey ends, and we reach the place where Jesus resides in Bethlehem, may we, like the Wise Men, fall on our knees and adore him as our true and only King.

-Mark Zimmermann (*Our Advent Journey*)

May Peace be your gift at Christmas
and your blessing all year through!

Love is what's in the room with you at
Christmas if you stop opening presents
and listen.

~ attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby

DECEMBER 2011
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NON- PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GROVE CITY, OH 43123
PERMIT NO. 3

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
SERVICE**

9:00am in the sanctuary

**CONTEMPORARY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

11:15am in the
Fellowship Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:15am



As I see it... (By Pastor Robert)

The twinkling of an eye...

As a child I vividly remember many adults saying these words "The older you get the faster times goes." I never fully understood such a concept. Yet as I am now a parent with teenagers I easily understood what those adults meant. It is easy to have time pass in the twinkling of an eye.

As you look back on the year 2011 what went by too quickly? For me it was the warm days of summer, the glory of summer flowers and the golden leaves of autumn's trees. Each gift packaged in their unique Godly manner.

As the church of Jesus Christ it is easy to miss God's gifts as we stand in the midst of them. As you approach the preparation season of Advent and the holy season of Jesus birth (Christmas) I encourage you to stop... take note of where you are in the middle of this busy time of year. Don't miss the sounds of children singing Christmas carols and retelling the Christmas story. Don't miss the scriptures proclaiming the birth of the Savior. There are many things happening, yes. Yet the time will go quickly. Stop and sit for a spell. Take in the flavors, smells and sights of the season all with an eye upon the manger of Bethlehem. Give thanks for God's great gift of Jesus the Savior! Take note: the time will pass quickly.

In Christ, *Pastor Robert*

