

MACLAND PRESS

A Publication of Macland Presbyterian Church

December 2009

Points of Interest

Save These Dates:

December 13

"A Night in Bethlehem"

December 20

7:00-Service of Lessons
& Carols

December 24

Christmas Eve Services
4:00-Birthday for Jesus
7:00-Candlelight &
Communion Service
11:00-Candlelight &
Communion Service

December 27

One Service Only
10:00-Worship Service
(No Sunday School)

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the
Light shines in
the Darkness

"A Night in Bethlehem"

Sunday, December 13

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

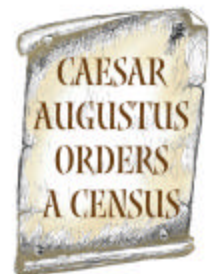
Macland Gym

Every One Will Enjoy "A Night In Bethlehem."

Join us and bring your friends and neighbors as the gym will be transformed into a marketplace in Bible times. A cast of characters will be present including beggars, soldiers, tax collectors and even a census taker!

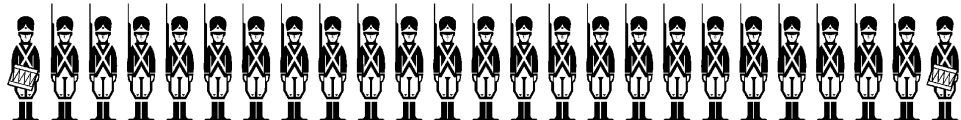


Tax Collector



*"Bethlehem...
out of you will come...
one who will be
ruler over
Israel."*

MICAH 5:2, NIV



? Music Notes?

Judy Jones - Director of Music



On Sunday, December 20th at 7:00 P.M. the music department is presenting “A Service of Lessons and Carols,” including music from the Adult Choir, Early Service Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, Children’s Choir, Brass Ensemble, and various instrumentalists. The format of “Lessons and Carols,” originating in England in 1880, includes scripture readings, special music, and the congregational singing of Christmas carols. The service is a retelling of the Christian’s story of faith, from the fall of Adam to the birth of Christ. Mark this date on your calendars and come share together in this preparation for Christmas. Anyone interested in joining with the choir, or any of the ensembles, in preparing the music for Advent and Christmas, is invited to come to Adult Choir practice on Wednesdays, from 7:00 - 9:00P.M., in the music room.

There will be three worship services on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th. At 4:00 there will be a children’s service, with the children participating in re-enacting the Christmas story, music from the Children’s Choir, and congregational singing of Christmas Carols, followed by “A Birthday Party for Jesus” in the fellowship hall. At 7:00 there will be a service of candle lighting and Communion, with music provided by the Adult Choir and Adult Handbell Choir. At 11:00 P.M. there will also be a service of candle lighting and Communion, with music provided by the Early Service Choir.



Both the Youth and Adult Handbell Choirs have openings for new ringers. Anyone who is interested in participating in either group, please contact Judy at 770-439-1548.

Important Dates for 2010 Calendar

As you turn over the calendar to 2010 place these important dates on the calendar so you won’t miss anything!

January 10	Bibles given at 11:00 Worship to 3 rd Graders
January 24	Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons/Fellowship Luncheon after church
January 31	Youth Sunday
February 7	Souper Bowl of Caring Offering
February 17	Ash Wednesday Service - 7 pm
February 27	Cherokee Presbytery Winter Leadership Event
February 28	Youth Fundraiser
March 12-14	Church Family Retreat - Fall Creek State Park, Pikeville, TN
March 27	Spring Chicken Run
March 28	Palm Sunday
April 1	Maundy Thursday
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter
May 16	Recognition of High School Graduating Seniors
June 6-12	Senior High Montreat Youth Conference
June 14-18	Vacation Bible School
June 21-27	Youth (6 th - 12 th Grade) Mission Trip to Wytheville, VA
July 21-25	Middle School Presbyterian College Conference





Home for Christmas and seeking a date during the holidays I called a girl who was home from another college. All girls were from “another college” in those days long before Davidson went coed. She responded to the affirmative, and since we had dated before, summoned the courage to make a totally unexpected request.

Her girl friend was dating a Catholic boy who wanted her to attend midnight Mass with him on Christmas Eve. Uneasy about being the only protestant in the midst of all that Latin and people who knew when to kneel, she was begging for support. That’s why my date was recruiting us to make it three fish out of the water rather than just one.

So shortly before eleven-it seems later -on Christmas Eve we entered a place of warm candlelight and quiet worship. Sleepily we listened and watched and even kneeled some of the time. I comprehended very little of the flow of the Latin Mass, but I was mightily impressed that here were dozens of people coming from parties in evening clothes and from their warm houses in casual clothes, and children out of their beds at past bedtime and even teenagers on dates: all beginning the celebration of the Lord’s birth-in church. I had never done that before-never even seen it done. But it was somehow right just being there in church praising God and claiming peace on earth with the angels, before a single present was opened or a feast consumed.

I drove the long way home across town in the wee hours of that Christmas morning vowing to myself that if I ever became a minister we would celebrate Christ’s birth on Christmas Eve as near to midnight as we could.

See you in church!

Jim Speed



Zeta's Zone

All around us we already see the signs that Christmas is coming soon. People are beginning to ask what do you want for Christmas? What is Santa going to bring? Who do we need to buy for? The ads are already in the newspapers and on the television. Even around the church we already have the Angel Tree up so we can buy for others. Our Mission Team is busy preparing for the many ways we share with our community.

In our family we are preparing (hopefully!) for a new baby to be among us by Christmas. We are anticipating what the next year will bring with two beautiful babies in our midst. What are the items we need to be sure we have around so we can make life easier for these precious gifts from God? As I have been thinking about our changing family I have begun to wonder what was it like for Mary and Joseph so many years ago. What were the questions they were asking that first Christmas in Bethlehem? Where will we be when the baby is born? Will our family be near? What type of food do we need to have on hand? Where will we lay this precious child?

As a church family we want everyone to experience the wonder of what it must have been like in Bethlehem on the Holy Night of our Savior's birth. So this year we are sponsoring **A Night in Bethlehem on Sunday, December 13 from 3:00-6:00 pm**. Join us and bring your friends and neighbors as the gym will be transformed into a marketplace in Bible times. You will have an opportunity to step back in time, design jewelry from the Roman Empire, create a bible-time wreath, make a wooden toy to play with, taste delicacies from the ancient city and discover again the wonder of the season. A cast of characters will be present including beggars, soldiers, tax collectors and even a census taker! We believe this is an event that will make the biblical story come alive for all ages so bring the whole family, invite a single neighbor or friend's family, or seek out others who might be touched by the real meaning of Christmas!

Make this Christmas special by remembering the central meaning of our celebrations - a baby who was born in Bethlehem and changed the world! See you on December 13 from 3:00-6:00 pm!

In Service to Christ,

Zeta

Reaching, Raising, Relieving

Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time

When our kids were little, Advent was a season of rushing. There were school pageants and concerts, church activities, holiday entertainments, office parties, a tree to decorate, presents to buy, wrap and send, travel.... "Enough!" we finally said one year. We sat down with the calendar and chose only those things that were most meaningful for our family.

We had a few friends over to help decorate the tree. We signed up to participate in the live Nativity at our church. We baked cookies and let the kids decorate them, not caring that they looked more like over-sprinkled blobs than Martha Stewart confections. We invited nearby family for Christmas Eve lunch, and we went to church that night. It wasn't perfect. There were still melt-downs. But it was better because we had chosen to simplify, to focus and to enjoy.

Advent is the time we prepare for our Lord's birth—the Incarnation of God in man. The Incarnation is a wondrous miracle. But wonder seldom appears when we are rushing.

As you read the list of mission, Christian education, worship and musical opportunities that our church offers during this season, I invite you to choose prayerfully and to participate joyfully, remembering the wonder and unfathomable grace of that first Christmas. This year, I'm choosing to incorporate this prayer into my Advent devotionals each morning.



A prayer before a Christmas crib

I open the stable door;
 I kneel before the infant;
 I worship with the shepherds
 I adore the Christ child.
 I give my love with Mary and Joseph
 I wonder at the 'Word made flesh.'
 I am aware of the love of God;
 I sing glory with the angels;
 I offer my gifts with the wise men.
 I receive the living Lord.
 I hold Him in my hands;
 I go on my way rejoicing,
 Glorifying and praising God.

David Adam
 From *Celtic Daily Prayer*

Reaching, Raising, Relieving
Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time

Mission Opportunities for Advent

Christmas ‘Angel Tree’



This supports CAMP children in need. We invite you to take an angel from the narthex and purchase a toy for a boy or girl, ages 8-12. Bring back unwrapped toys (\$30 and under) by December 6. Some suggestions: sports balls and equipment, board games, watches, radios, walkmans, hand-held video games, crafts kits, portable CD players, Lego and remote control cars. Linda Puterbaugh noted that you don’t have to have an actual angel to participate. There is much greater need this year due to the economy and the flooding—all gifts will find a welcome home.

Holiday Baskets for CAMP



Holiday Baskets
for
CAMP

CAMP supplies a Christmas basket of food to families who need it in our community. Your \$10 donation will be used to purchase \$40 worth of food from the Atlanta Food Bank. Please write your check to Macland Presbyterian Church and designate it for CAMP Holiday Baskets before placing it in the offering plate.

Christmas Joy Offering

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings that our church receives during the year. Half of this offering goes to the PCUSA Board of Pensions and provides special assistance to support retired and active church workers, their spouses and families. The other half goes to support racial and ethnic education, specifically a group of colleges founded by Presbyterians



ans to ensure that people of all backgrounds have access to higher education and training. Some of the schools include Stillman College, Sheldon Jackson College, Presbyterian Pan American School and the Menaul School. We will receive this offering on December 20.

Christmas Eve Offering



Traditionally, our Christmas Eve offering goes to support a local mission or outreach organization. This year the monies given at our Christmas Eve services will go to an agency that is helping with flood recovery. Our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team met at Macland on October 30 to discuss plans for long-term recovery efforts. Members from seven or eight churches attended a training session. Committees are being organized now in Cherokee and Atlanta Presbyteries—if you’d like to be involved, call Laura Yaramishyn or Zeta Lamberson. We expect that Presbyterians will be helping families to rebuild their homes, businesses and lives for the next two years. Please give generously.

In December, the MPC women will enjoy the Christmas season by gathering for dinner and a play in Marietta Square. We will meet at 6:30 for dinner at La Famiglia on the square and then attend the play, "Sanders Family Christmas" at Theatre in the Square. Tickets are \$25 each. If you would like to join us, please call or email Michelle Dettore. We might want to commit early and purchase a couple blocks of tickets so that we can share the event together; if there is enough interest and commitment (12+), we can order them at the group discount price of \$23.

Suggestions for future gatherings are always welcome!

Event: Dinner at La Famiglia
 Play--Sanders Family Christmas
 Date: Thursday, December 10
 Cost: \$25 for the play
 Place: Marietta Square (perhaps carpool from church)
 Time: 6:30--dinner; 8:00 Play



RSVP by December 1 for ticket orders; December 7 for dinner only--only positive replies are needed:
michelledettore@yahoo.com, 770-439-2761



Calling all volunteers!! The Christian Education Team is looking for a few good volunteers to help out in the Nursery during the 11:00 o'clock service. We ask that you volunteer your time once a quarter. If you can help us out please contact Christina Wier at wiersocrazy@comcast.net



Macland's Calendar is on the Web

Check out the new **RED HOT** button on the front page of the website. It will take you directly to Macland's monthly calendar.



Stewardship Update

The 2010 pledges stand at 112 pledges for \$510,344.00 (Nov. 16). We remain approximately \$35,000 from a bare bones budget. If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2010 please do so as soon as possible so the Session can make wise decisions about the allocation of funds for the new year.

Macland's Sunday Sermons via pod cast at www.macland.org



December 6

Malachi 3:1-4
"The Refiner's Fire"
 Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson

December 13

Isaiah 12:1-6, Mt. 1:18-25
"To Claim The Promise"
 Dr. James O. Speed

December 20

Luke 1:26-38
"The First Response"
 Dr. James O Speed, Jr.

December 24

4:00 p.m. Birthday Party for Jesus
7:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Service
 Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson
11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Service
 Dr. James O. Speed

December 27

Luke 2:22-40
"After The Moment"
 Dr. James O Speed, Jr.



The Page Turners Reading Guild meets on the third Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., in Room B of the Family Life Center.



Through November 16, 2009

Revenue to date	\$487,227.23
Expenses to date	\$473,660.41



Dance Upon The Air

by Nora Roberts

Book Review by Karen Williamson

Escaping to Three Sisters Island to put her life together after an abusive marriage, Nell Channing gradually begins to think that she has finally found a place where she can create a new life. But her husband isn't about to let her go and, when he finally finds her, it takes all her new-found strength and a little help from her "sisters" to deal with his violence.

A magnetic hero, a heroine who re-discovers herself and the courage within, and some memorable secondary characters weave a mesmerizing tale of magic that launches the first installment in a notable trilogy by Roberts. Grade – B++

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Nora Roberts was born in Silver Spring, Maryland, the youngest of five children. After a school career that included some time in Catholic school and the disciplines of nuns, she married young and settled in Keedysville, Maryland. She worked briefly as a legal secretary before turning to writing. Several manuscripts and rejections later, her first book, *Irish Thoroughbred*, was published by Silhouette in 1981.

Nora met her second husband, Bruce Wilder, when she hired him to build bookshelves in her home. They were married in July 1985. Since that time, they've expanded their home, traveled the world, and opened a bookstore together. One of the best and most consistent writers in the genre, Nora Roberts is a member of the RWA Hall of Fame. She is a member of several writers groups and has won countless awards from her colleagues and the publishing industry. Recently *The New Yorker* called her "America's favorite novelist."

DID YOU KNOW?

One Billion . . .	the number of undernourished, hungry people in the world-that's 1 in 6
Two Hundred Million . . .	the number of children whose growth is stunted from hunger
From 17% down to 3.8% . . .	the reduction in aid given for agriculture production
Sixteen Thousand . . .	the number of children who die each DAY from hunger
Twelve Million . . .	the number of U.S. children who live in hunger

Some simple ways to help the hungry..."add an item" at the grocery store each time you shop, place the food in a box at home and when the box is full give it to a food bank...give a small donation to an international relief organization, \$34 can buy a 100pd bag of rice to feed a family for a month or can also buy seeds and teach the world's poor to farm and sustain their own food supply...support Cents-ability...

The Presbyterian Church USA has a new hunger program and it's called : Cents-ability.

What is Cents-ability? A strategy for raising awareness — and funds — for the fight against hunger

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Cents-ability originated in 1976 as "Two Cents A Meal", begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger...we invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command "You give them something to eat." When we bring our offerings to church on the first Sunday of each month, all of those coins "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" as they are received and dedicated. These small acts of faithfulness can add up: One hundred persons in a congregation will contribute \$180 a month at two cents a meal. That's \$2,160 a year. A 30,000 member presbytery has the potential of raising over \$1.6 million annually at a nickel a meal...

Cents-ability will begin in January.

December Birthdays



12/1	Marlene Michalke	12/9	Joshua Schmidt	12/20	James Gray
12/1	Joseph Faraj	12/10	Margret Kendall	12/20	Karen Gooden
12/2	Janet Cospers	12/11	Tabitha Rogers	12/20	Jessie Schmidt
12/2	Megan Smith	12/11	David Wilkerson	12/20	Lucca Jimenez
12/3	Nathan Hollar	12/12	Michelle Yates	12/22	Evaclaire Howland
12/4	Camille Townsend	12/13	Ann Dowling	12/22	Ellie Peterson
12/4	Frances Yaramishyn	12/14	McGee Spencer	12/23	Carolyn Baumgartner
12/5	Pat Morrison	12/14	Maggie Pope	12/23	Broc Blair
12/5	Barbara Aliff	12/14	Victoria Willever	12/24	Sharon Milner
12/5	Ann House	12/14	Jacob Nohr	12/28	Rosanna Beebe
12/6	Karen Williamson	12/14	Olivia Nohr	12/28	Jeff Lundeen
12/7	Claire Davis	12/16	Steve Basha	12/29	Sue Thach
12/8	Alan Judd	12/18	Sean Parchem	12/29	Gail Winter
12/9	Richard Auchenpaugh	12/18	Sara Spain	12/30	Alice Grove
12/9	Becky Face	12/19	Pam Matthews	12/31	Holly Gartrell
12/9	Erik Clark	12/20	Penny Estes		

Macland Presbyterian Church
3615 Macland Road
Powder Springs, GA 30127
770-439-1548
(return service requested)

Reaching the Lost,
Raising Disciples
Relieving Suffering

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Powder Springs GA



December 24

- 4:00 pm** Birthday Party for Jesus featuring Rainbow and Children's Choirs
- 7:00 pm** Candlelight Worship with Communion
Adult Choir and Adult Handbell Choir
- 11:00 pm** Candlelight Worship with Communion
Early Service Choir

December 27

One Worship Service - 10:00 am
NO Sunday School