



FAITHFUL TIMES

FPC December 2008 Newsletter



Oh yeah, you're the church that_____.

Chris ' Column



What did you stick in that blank on the front? That's an important question. Another important question is: Did you talk with someone else about what you (and they) put in the blank? If no, why not?

How did you arrive at your blank-filler? I don't think the best way to fill the blank is to look for a need and then stick that need in your blank just because you noticed it. The reason this isn't the best way is that **you** might not be a part of the solution to filling that need. If you happen to notice a need, and you are passionate about that particular issue, then I think we're onto something, but merely noticing needs won't do. The thing that goes in the blank is something that you will be a part of bringing to pass.

Here are a few questions that will help you think:

1, What specific human hurts and hopes do you have longings to help with?

(This might be something that keeps you awake at night on occasion.)

2. What concrete strengths do you have with which to share effective help for these specific human hurts and hopes?

(You understand and have compassion toward certain specific dilemmas in life: you own pilgrimage of life has brought on given hurts and hopes that enable you to share and care more effectively in similar kinds of situations.)

3. What three to five persons do you know who have similar longings and strengths in your church or in your community?

(Isolated and individualistic approaches to mission are unproductive. It is important that the person who has discovered longings and strengths look around and discover others with similar longings and strengths.)

4. What events in the community would make this mission effort timely?

(...events that occur in the church and community are among the final ingredients in developing missional objectives [the blank filler].)

5. In what specific ways is God calling you to invest your life in this blank filler?

Think and pray over this list. Talk it over with others. Talk it over with someone who doesn't go to church.

I have come to be convinced over the past few months that the answers to these questions are vital to our life together at Faith Pres. There's no better time than Advent when we think about the Incarnation of Christ to think about how we can incarnate His love for each other and Covington!

These are taken from the author Kennon L. Callahan in his works, *Small, Strong Congregations* and *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*.

Forgotten In The Gifts

From Christmas Edition Our Daily Bread volume 2

Read: John 3:13-21

In Western culture, the Christmas season is a time for a revelry of gift-giving. A world-famous department store annually issues a catalog of gifts of value beyond extravagance. One of them was a \$10 million zeppelin—a 230 foot-long, 50 foot-wide airship capable of flying for 24 hours without refueling.

A gift like that seems unbelievably extravagant, especially when we consider the lowly manger to which God sent the gift of His Son. All too often in the midst of our exchange of presents God's gift get forgotten.

We can avoid this by remembering to give from our heart. We can be inspired by love and gratitude not only for our loved ones but also supremely for the Giver of all good gifts, our heavenly Father.

Even the smallest, least expensive of gifts can take our memoirs back to Bethlehem where God gave to the world His love-gift of infinite value. His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16). With each present we give and receive, we can say from our heart, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

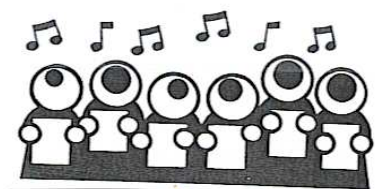
As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costly treasures bring
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King. - Dix



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.—John 3:16

Join us as we go CAROLING

Did you know that you not only sound better in the shower singing but you also sound better with a group of friends. So, join us on **Saturday, December 13th at 4 P.M.** and no one will even notice if you can't hold a note! We will let you know where to meet as the date approaches. We will be visiting a few of our members, some of whom are at Pontchartrain Health Care and Heritage Manor. After speaking with the Health Care homes, they both expressed much appreciation and excitement about the upcoming visit. Talk with Chris for more details. And kids, the older folks love when you show up too so please consider coming with your parents!



Children's Ministry

by Pam Greenbaum



Our children have a special gift for our church family. On Sunday December 21st they will present a LIVING NATIVITY during service. They have started their music practice and have decided on their parts and are very excited. We hope that your family and friends will be able to attend so we can share this special day worshipping our Lord and celebrating His miraculous birth. Following our program our Children's Church kids will celebrate Jesus' birth with a party during Children's Church.

K.L.I.C.ers will resume on Sunday January 18th. Once again at that meeting we are working on another top secret project to be revealed in May and planning our upcoming collection of items for our Romanian Christmas boxes. We should be ready to put our boxes together in March

I pray we all have a blessed Christmas and that our New Year brings our church family much joy!

SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL! (IT ROCKS!!!)

Session Meeting Recap

At a stated meeting, the session of Faith Presbyterian Church, Covington, LA met in the library of the church on Tuesday evening, November 11th, 2008, 7:00-9p.

Presbytery Facilitator, John Adamson was present and gave a report.

The session took action on the following item:

A building request for a wedding was approved pending a revision of the wedding policy by the session and administration committee.

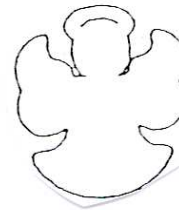
The meeting was closed with prayer for congregational concerns as well as for First Presbyterian, Opelika, AL—a new EPC congregation.

Women's Update

Faith Circle will meet at the church on December 9th at 12:30 pm for a holiday lunch.. They will start the year off with their regular monthly gathering on January 13th . This group of ladies meet on the second Tuesday of each month for a dessert and Bible Study. Talk with Mary Edmundson about joining in.

Double Nickels will have fun on **January 26th** at noon. Mark your calendars!

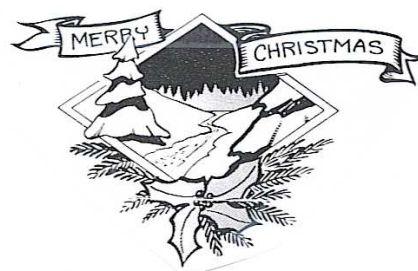
Be An Angel, Pick An Angel



The Angel *Giving* Tree is ready for you to pick an angel. To participate, just pick an angel and furnish the item written on it. Have it wrapped and labeled (just **put the white paper angel you picked taped to the top of the gift**) and placed under the tree by **December 14th**. The gifts will be delivered on December 16th.

Your Women's Council takes this opportunity to wish all the ladies of Faith a blessed and peaceful holiday. They look forward to serving you in 2009!

Nikki Slaton, Lynn Fury, Joy Marsolan, Karen Terrell, Amy Miller, Faye Feddeck and Patty Frutiger



Church-Wide Family Christmas Party

Sunday, December 7

4–6 P.M.



Wear your holiday finery—party finger foods & punch will be served.

Transportation, if needed, can be provided. Call the church office for arrangements.

Year-End Giving Tips



Contributions must be received in the church office or post-marked on or before December 31, 2008 in order to be included on the giver's 2007 contributions report from the church. If you would like to prepay all or part of your Building Fund pledge or your General Fund estimate of giving for 2009, you may do so before year-end by so indicating on your check. Your check will be deposited and reported this year, with the funds used by the church next year.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other securities are welcomed and will be liquidated by the church upon receipt. You will receive contributions credit for the liquidated amount. These gifts may be applied to your current year's pledge, your 2009 pledge, or to the Building Fund. If you would like to make such a gift, please contact the church office to make arrangements.

In-kind gifts may be included on your 2008 contributions report if you provide documentation of cost to the church office by December 31. These gifts include anything you buy and give to the church without receiving reimbursement.

Thanks to everyone for their continuing financial support of Faith Presbyterian Church! Please let the office know if you have any questions.

Christmas Wishes



Pastor Bishop, Pastor Chris, the Session, Deaconate and Staff would like to send each of you their wishes for a very blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year!

The most important part about "Christmas" is the first six letters!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service


5:00 P.M.



Don't miss this beautiful time in the life of our church. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. We would love to have them visit!

There will be NO nursery during the Candlelight Service.

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>4-6 P.M. Church Wide Christmas Party</i>	8 <i>6p Administration Meeting</i>	9 <i>12:30p Circle 7p Session</i>	10 <i>10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir</i>	11	12	13 <i>4 P.M. Caroling</i>
14	15	16	17 <i>10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>Kids perform in Service Birthday Party for Jesus</i>	22	23 <i>7p Gospel Jam</i>	24 <i>5p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27
28 <i>Communion</i>	29	30	31			



**December
Happy Birthday!**

Dorothy Dofter	7
Debbie Annessa	11
Joy Lynn Hobart	13
Rebecca Marsolan	14
Claire Bishop	15
Carl Annessa	17
Immanuel	25
Chris Curtis	30

FPC Contact Info

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Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
 9 am—4 pm


E-Mail:
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 Web: www.faipreschurch.org

Sunday Times:
Sunday School: 9:00am
Fellowship: 10:00am
Worship: 10:30am

Deadlines

Bulletin announcements need to be in the office by noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday they are to appear.

Newsletter items need to be in the office by the third Thursday of each month!



If your birthday does not appear in the Happy Birthday section to the left, please call the church office during regular office hours and let Susie know so you can be included next year!

