



# First Pres Kids

December 2008

Matthew 19:14 - but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Covering the news and events of the preschool and elementary children at First Presbyterian Church, Florence, S.C.

## Living Nativity



Anna Roycroft and Ellen Wilhoit help the cast memorize their lines for the Living Nativity presentation..

As part of First Presbyterian Church's tradition, this year's Living Nativity will be presented by the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Playhouse Choirs (3k through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) will be serving as choir angels. **We only have two practices left!!!** Our dress rehearsal is December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would like all the kids preschool-6<sup>th</sup> to come after dinner (6:10 p.m.) to the Fellowship Hall for dress rehearsal. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be in costume, while the younger kids will practice through their songs once on the steps. After practicing their songs, the Preschoolers will go back to their normal classrooms and the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> will go for recreation time.

## Medical Release Forms

Year-long medical release forms will be available to fill out in the CLC and Nursery area on Sunday mornings. Please take the time to fill these out for your children. We also need to get a copy of your insurance card in case we would need it.

## Parent's Night Out

December 6, 2008

5:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Get Ready!!! We are having a Christmas theme for Parents Night Out. So we will have Christmas crafts, games, good pizza, a movie, and a special guest on this wonderful night. It is not too late to sign-up. If you have not signed up your child, please contact Ms. Jessica at [jwood@florencefirst.org](mailto:jwood@florencefirst.org) or by calling the Church office.

## New Sunday Procedures

In an effort to make our Church as safe and enjoyable an environment as possible for our children, several new procedures are being adopted for Sunday mornings.

### Cribland to 2K

Name tags for Cribland to 2 year old children will be available with each child's name for families to place on the child's back. We ask that you place these tags on the back of the kids so they do not play with them. There will also be forms to fill out for parents, so we can put this information on the back of the child's name tag. This information will let us know of any special needs or conditions such as allergies.

### Elementary

Elementary sign-in sheets will now be in the CLC for parents to sign in and check out their child. Each grade will have their own sheet when entering the CLC. After Sunday school, each grade will be sitting together with their teacher as they wait to check off that you have picked up your child. This is being put in place so that we make sure we do not lose any children in the drop off pick up process.

### Children's Church

Children's Church is available for kids 1st grade and younger. We encourage families with older kids to sit together in the sanctuary.

## Presbyterian Playhouse Choir



Ann Rodgers Chandler and Bruce Hubbs have been busy working with our elementary children on Wednesday nights. The children have already sung once during the 11:00 a.m. service this fall. This month, they will help form the angel choir for the Living Nativity. They will also be performing at the 5:00 p.m. Candlelight service on Christmas eve.

## Family Photographs Needed

To help Ms. Jessica get better acquainted with the families in the Children's Ministry, please drop off a recent picture of your family at the Church office. Ms. Jessica plans to decorate her office with these pictures. Please, remember to write your names on the back of the photograph so that she can start putting names and faces together.

## Manna House Toy Collection

Please help make this Christmas a special one for a little boy or girl in our community. Bring an unwrapped, new toy to the Fellowship Hall stage and place it under the Christmas tree. A gift for ages infant to 17 years is appropriate. The donated toys will be part of the annual Christmas celebration that Manna House sponsors on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Bonclarken Family Retreat



Over 60 people, young and older, enjoyed the first weekend of November at Bonclarken for the Church's Family Retreat. While the adults enjoyed their speaker, the children had a lesson time of their own led by Ms. Jessica, Charissa Canfield, and Amy Williams.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

This Christmas Eve, we will hold our traditional Candlelight/Communion Services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. Our children's choir will be singing at the 5:00 p.m. service, which will include an extended children's message, while the 7:00 p.m. service will feature our Chancel Choir.

At both Candlelight Services, the offering that is received will be used to assist families in need throughout the year and the children are asked to bring canned goods for a special offering during our children's sermon which will benefit our local residents who are in need this winter.

## Operation Christmas Child

This year our Church collected 90 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to every one that made this ministry a great success.

## Upcoming December Events

### Living Nativity Dress Rehearsal:

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### Parents Night Out:

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-10:00 p.m.

### Tweens:

Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

### Living Nativity Performance:

Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> &  
Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

### Caroling :

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.

### Candlelight Services:

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.