



Tidings

Bringing News of the
Clover Presbyterian Church

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church
Larne, Northern Ireland

December, 2009

Things You Need to Know:

- The **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be presented during worship on December 6 at 11:00 am. Join us for this joyful and perhaps occasionally chaotic retelling of the miracle of Christ's birth. Thanks to our directors Suzanne McCall and Libby Sprouse and the entire ministry team for their diligence and devotion to this annual celebration. Parents are also reminded that rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 5th, begins at 9:00 am for those with speaking parts.
- Say thank you and farewell to **Marty Simmons** who completes her time with us as a Seminary intern on Sunday, December 13. We will miss Marty's many gifts in worship leadership, preaching, teaching, and caring for our members, but more than her skills we will miss her enthusiasm, grace, and willing spirit that has made her time with us such an occasion of growth and joy for us all. We wish her every blessing as she completes her preparation for ministry and embarks on the journey that is a life in ministry with God's people.
- Our annual church **Christmas party**, hosted by the Board of Deacons, will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 13th at 5:00 pm. Join us for dinner, fellowship, some carol singing, and a special guest appearance by Santa! Fun for the whole family.
- Our Chancel Choir will be presenting ***God's Son is Born*** ~ A Christmas Cantata by Peggy Hoffman, during the 11:00 worship service on December 20th.
- **The Session and the Board of Deacons** will hold their final meetings for 2009 on Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 in the Conference room and Church Parlor respectively. These leaders of our church have worked especially hard this year and are to be commended for their excellent service in some difficult circumstances.
- Our third annual **Birthday Party for Jesus** will be held at God's Kitchen on Monday, December 21. Gift bags are available in the atrium. More information about how you can help is included in this newsletter.
- Invite your neighbors, friends, and visiting family members to join us on Christmas Eve at 5:30 for our **Service of Candlelight and Communion** celebrating the birth of Christ, the incarnation of God's presence dwelling among us.
- Our youth will once again provide a day of **free childcare** for the parents of our congregation so that they can have some uninterrupted time to "prepare" for the BIG DAY! Bring your children to us on Saturday, December 12 between 9:00-4:00 and we will keep them safe and entertained while you shop.
- We will **ordain and install** our new class of officers at the 11:00 service on Sunday January 3rd.

Things You Need To Know Continue on Page 7



Keynotes: Lord, in your mercy; Hear our Prayer

*He was praying in a certain place,
and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him,
"Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."
(Luke 11:1)*

"Lord, teach us to pray." It is the desire of every generation of disciples. Teach us how to talk to God; teach us what God wants to hear us say. Teach us to express our gratitude, thanks, awe, and reverence to God in appropriate and faithful ways. Teach us how to make our requests known to God. If we can learn to pray like you, to converse with God like you, then we will also know God like you. That's what disciples want more than anything, to know God the way their master knows God - whether that master is John or Jesus or some other righteous rabbi. You relate to God the way we want to relate to God. You understand God the way we want to understand God. So teach us to pray, and in the process we will be drawn into that life sustaining relationship with God that we see in you.

That is why we cultivate a life and practice of prayer. That is why we can claim as a community that we are sustained and nourished by prayer. Prayer draws us into the presence of the Holy. There, in communion with the God who created us, redeemed us, and dwells among us still, the world and our lives in it make sense.

Prayer, John Calvin claimed, is "the chief exercise of faith." Prayer is to the Christian life what rigorous physical exertion is to the athletic life. It is that practice which constitutes, improves, strengthens and prepares us for the challenges ahead.

This can be true because we know God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In prayer we engage and experience the triune God of the Bible. "In prayer," writes Martha Moore-Keish, "we acknowledge that God is at once the source of our prayer, the one to whom we pray, and our companion in prayer. When we turn to prayer, before we even open our lips, we are surrounded

and suffused by the mystery of the Holy Trinity." To want to know how to pray, when to pray, why to pray, is to want to know God, address God, be confronted and blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Dr. Moore-Keish is a professor of theology at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. Her book, *Christian Prayer for Today* will be the subject of our inaugural **Spiritual Enrichment Series**, this January.

When we drafted our strategic plan two years ago the congregation expressed a consistent and deeply felt desire to be nourished spiritually: to be taught how to pray, how to listen for God's voice in their lives, how to be led more deeply into the mystery of God's presence around them. One of our goals has been to offer opportunities for the members of the congregation to explore that part of their lives through special events, retreats and seasonal emphases.

So we are going to devote January to the formation of our spiritual selves. We are going into training, practicing this chief exercise of our faith. Our Sunday School classes (Youth and Adults) are being asked to study this book for four weeks. There will be resources for your personal use; our worship will explore various styles and approaches to prayer; there will (predictably) be sermons and Bible studies on the practice of prayer.

But the highlight of the season will be the last week in January when you get to meet the author, listen to her, question her, fellowship with her. Martha will be with us, to lead us in worship, conversation, and exploration of the meaning of prayer in our lives of faith today on Sunday, January 31, and Monday, February 1.

This is an exciting series for our



Keynotes: Lord, in your mercy; Hear our Prayer

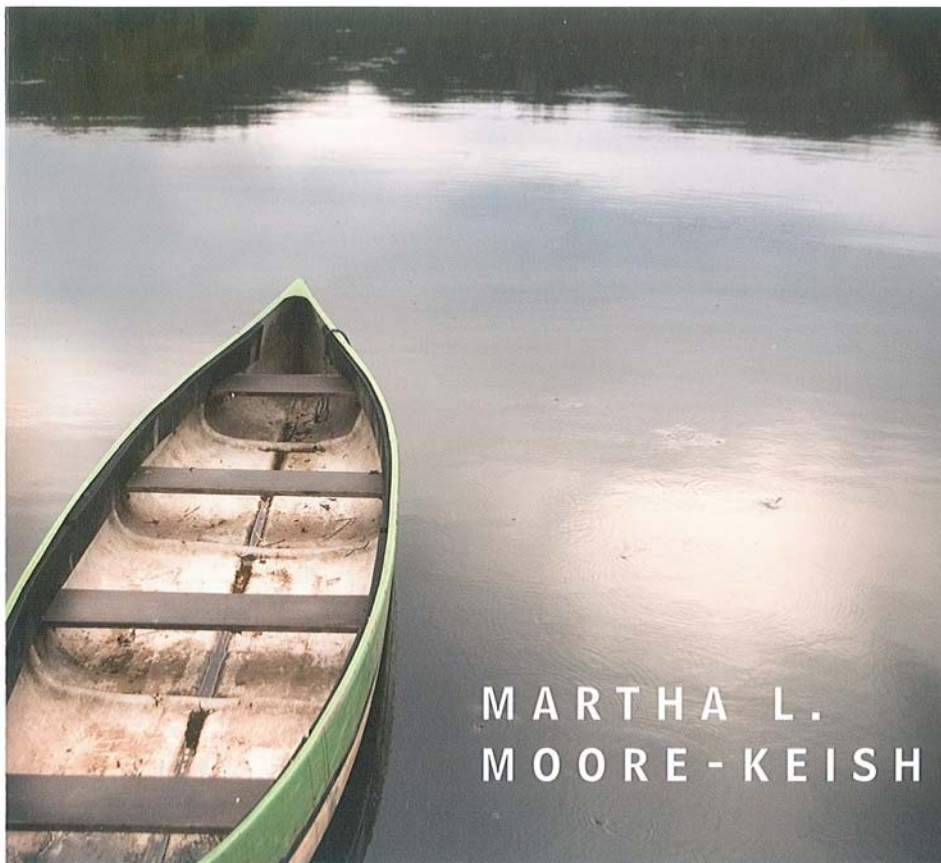
congregation. Not just because it is an important way we see our vision for our life coming into practice, but more so because of the opportunity it presents us to know God and be known by him. This can be a time of great renewal for our shared lives of discipleship. A congregation that knows God and goes to God in prayer, lives more joyfully, worships more faithfully, reads the Bible more diligently,

gives more generously, proclaims the gospel more confidently, and extends itself in mission more willingly.

Come, let us join our hearts together... in prayer.

Peace,

CHRISTIAN PRAYER FOR TODAY



December, 2009

People Who Need Your Prayers:

The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President – Barack Obama, our Governor–Mark Sanford, our Mayor–Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams and Tony & Connie Johnson.

Our Known Sick: Grant McLean, Taze Bennett, Ruby Bennett, Nona Beamguard, Mary Sifford, Gene Sifford, Ann Wright, Mildred Elliott, Marge Woods, Joe Williams, Judy Eibel, Avery Goode, Ken Graham, Carol Ludwig and Betsy Johnson.

Those unable to worship with us: Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Anne Hall & Mary Lou Sifford.

Friends and Relatives:

JoAnn Barnes – mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith—dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Alice Fowler—aunt of Julia Smith, Jake Pritchard—grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence—friends of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Al & Mary Jauregui—grandparents of Jacqui Marquez, Mack Falls—cousin of Dick Jackson, Carrie Reese—niece of Janet Owings, Anne Futch—sister of Bear Owings, Elizabeth Barnett—mother of Tom Redmond, Sharon Fitch, Eddie Doss—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Paul Timms, father of Paula Clayton, Mackenzie DeCuir, Alex VanEtten, mentor student of Libby Sprouse, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Dan Hartsoe—father of Don Hartsoe, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel—sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell—friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Debra Good—friend of Jeannie Edmunds, Bruce Clark—friend of Kathy Key, Libby Claire McGarity, Ida & Ernest Cagle—grandparents of Mike Carpenter, Miriam Snyder—mother of Kelly Crowe, Vernon Feiler—grandfather of Chris Rice, Carly Bennett—granddaughter of Don & Kay Westmoreland, Jennifer Newsom—sister of Travis Newsom and Will Martin, grandson of Gary & Lillian Lawrence—serving in Afghanistan

December, 2009

Places You Need to Be:

- **Sunday School** ~ classes available for all ages. Sunday morning 10:00 a.m.
- **Worship** ~ every Sunday in Advent @ 11:00.
- **Children's Choir** ~ Wednesdays, 4:45pm.
- **Handbells** ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm,
- **Beach Retreat** ~ Sign up now for next May!
- **Christmas Pageant** ~ December 6, 11:00 am.
- **Youth Child-Care Day** ~ December 12; 9:00am—4:00 pm.
- **Christmas Party** ~ December 13, 5:00 pm.
- **Christmas Cantata** ~ December 20, 11:00 am.
- **Birthday Party for Jesus Gift bags due** ~ Wednesday, December 16th in the Atrium.
- **Officer Training** ~ December 1, 8, 15.
- **Confirmation Class Christmas Field Trip** ~ December 19th. Olde Salem.

December, 2009

Things You Need to Know:

- **Consecration Sunday** for 2009 was a success as we exceeded the total amount pledged from 2008. Our pledges went up by \$3,400 to a total of \$320,687. If you have not made your stewardship commitment for 2010 yet, please give it prayerful consideration and notify the church office of your intention to support the work of Christ in and through our life together.
- The **Confirmation Class Christmas Field trip** is coming up on Saturday, December 19. Travel back in time to 17th century America as we experience Christmas in the colonies at Olde Salem. \$10 plus money for food on the way back.
- Early Service Returns on January 3! **Praise Team rehearsal** will resume on Wednesday, December 30. Anyone interested in joining the praise team for the new year is invited to be with us.
- **Winter Blood-drive, December 28.** Blood supplies are critically low during the Holiday season so make sure to come and give the gift of life as we celebrate our new life in Christ.
- The **Hunting Island Church Camping Trip** is scheduled for April 30—May 2, 2010. Please make your reservations by completing a reservation form (located in the Atrium) and returning it with your \$60 deposit to Tammie Anderson. If you have questions, please contact Tammie (684-5594).
- **HELP!** Needed with our **Youth Ministry** programs. As we continue the search process for our new DCE/Youth director any volunteer effort that you can offer our Middle and High school youth is appreciated.

Worshipping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

December, 2009

Things You Need to Do:

- **Welcome** our new members and our visitors who worship with us and join us in fellowship every week.
- **Invite** your friends, neighbors and visiting family from our of town to come celebrate **Christmas Eve** with us, December 24, at 5:30.
- **Come** to the Christmas Party, December 13, at 5:00.
- **Adopt** a child for our Birthday Party for Jesus on December 21.
- **Join** the Praise team for the New year when rehearsals resume on December 30.
- **Read *Christian Prayer for Today***, in preparation for our **Spiritual Enrichment Series** at the end of January.
- **Volunteer:** to help in our Nursery; on Wednesday nights; at Children's church; anywhere you see a need.
- **Join an Adult Sunday school class** during our special emphasis on **Christian Prayer:** Adult 1 (Church Parlor), The Seekers (Church Library), Ladies Bible Class (Ladies Classroom), and Men's Bible Class (Recreation Building).
- **Bring** your children to choir rehearsal on Wednesday, December 2 at 4:45; and to Pageant rehearsal on Saturday, December 5 at 9:00 am.
- **Remember** to thank our retiring elders and deacons for three years of devoted service to the growth and nurture of our congregation.

Make a Year-End Gift Using Your IRA

Anyone who is 70 1/2 can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from their IRA's in 2009. Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 it allows anyone who is 70 1/2 and older to donate directly to a qualified charity tax free. As of this time no one knows if this provision will be renewed in 2010. Please call the church office for more details.



Thank you for supporting Crossfire!; a ministry team of *Youth Encounter* with your presence and financial gifts on Wednesday, November 18. A special thanks to Paula and Buddy Clayton; Liz and Joe Zeibel; Max Craig; and T and Karen Cox for hosting the members of the group overnight in their homes. Thanks also to the Men's Bible Class for providing such a fine meal.

God's blessings,
T and Karen Cox.

Cross Fire
Serving Ghana, Nigeria and the United States



*Presbyterian
Women*

Council- Monday, December 7

Circles- Monday, Monday, December 14

#1 meets at the church at 10:00am

#2 meets at the home of Kristy Rowland at 7:00pm.

#3 meets at home of Lisa Hall at 7:00pm.

Serving the church in December

Closing - Charles Ford

Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am

06 Will Baker
13 Dave Cyphers
20 Jeff Sanders
27 Brian Boling

Greeters

06 Kay Gordon, Marge Woods
13 Sally Mann, Gene Bowman
20 Linda Henry, Ann Goode
27 Barbara Corson, Peggy Adams

Offering

06 Bob Mann
13 Jack Scott
20 Dick Jackson
27 Don Hartsoe

Acolytes 11:00

06 Mackenzie Dawes
13 Alyssa McCain
20 Jon-Michael Brinkley
27 Jay Rowland

Nursery Volunteers (11:00)

06 Heather McCarley
13 Libby Sprouse
20 Sammy Ann McCarley
27 Kellie Graham

Children's Church 11:00

3 & 4 year olds

06 Buddy & Paula Clayton
13 Carl & Mary Adams
20 Phyllis & Allison Maynard
27 Greg & Kristy Rowland

K-2nd grade

06 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley
13 John & Julie Preston
20 Bill & Libby Brooks
27 Katie Benton & Evelyn Pendleton

Sunday School

Ladies Bible Class—Ladies Classroom

06 Kay Gordon
13 Willie Westmoreland
20 Pat Lowe
27 Myrna Kosko

Men's Bible Class—Rec. Building

06 Don Westmoreland
13 Charles McLean
20 Dave Cyphers
27 J.S. Edmunds

Adult 1 Class—Church Parlor

06 Greg Rowland
13 TBA
20 Donna Hartsoe
27 Jane McCall

The Seekers Class—Church Library

06 Bruce Elliott
13 Jack Scott
20 Class member
27 Lisa Hall

Tidings

December, 2009
Volume 18, Number 12

Non-Profit

Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit 14

Clover, SC



Clover Presbyterian Church
202 Kings Mountain Street
Clover, SC 29710

Address Correction

Is published monthly by:

Tidings

Clover Presbyterian Church
202 Kings Mountain Street
Clover, SC 29710
information@cloverpres.org

803-222-9108 office

Pastor:

Douglass Key

dkey@cloverpres.org

Director of Music:

Christine Newsom

csevakolcsd.k12.sc.us

Organist:

Seminary Intern:

Marty B. Simmons

jams@comporium.net

Director of Preschool:

Wanda Whitesides

w.whitesides@att.net

Secretary:

Pam Fowler

Pamtfowler@bellsouth.net

More information about events and activities available online:

www.cloverpres.org