

South Plains Reflector



South Plains Presbyterian Church
Corner of Black Cat & Louisa Roads
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DECEMBER 2011

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

**DR. DAVID K.
GARTH PASTOR**

Sunday Worship

1st Service
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

2nd Service
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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**Christian Education**

Classes for all ages  
meet from  
9:45 AM to 10:30 AM  
each Sunday  
September through  
May

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**Childcare for
infants through 2nd
grade**



Thanksgiving surfaced many reasons for gratitude in our family as we enjoyed good food and the company of relatives and friends. The only discordant note was a crushing defeat in football for “The University.” Although I have my questions about the value of big time college sports, I learned about one more opportunity to give thanks that Saturday night.

There was no denying the disappointment throughout the regulars in Scott Stadium as the game ground to a halt. But, coaches and later the players, reminded us that it was only a game, and only a single game at that. The team is not defined by that defeat. Their victories outnumber losses and characterize the season more accurately. Moreover, there’s another game to prepare for.

The coaches are not only using good psychology. These lessons transfer readily to the Christian life. Our identity in Christ is not in the defeats we suffer nor in the sins we commit. When we think of ourselves in that light, we discount the good news. Not only are we forgiven in Christ, we are also a new creation in Christ. Our new identity is incomplete, but our destiny is assured. God succeeds with us in the end. That’s the best reason to give thanks every weekend.

David

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 10

“Hanging of the Greens,” 9am
Leaf Clean-Up, 9am

December 11

Joy Gift Offering
Silver Anniversary Celebration, 11am service
Candlelight Service, 5:30pm

December 18

Children’s Pageant, 9:45am, Fellowship Hall
Caroling, 3pm
Cents-ability Offering

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 5pm

December 25

Christmas Sunday Service (11am service only)
Sunday School will not meet

January 1

New Year’s Communion Service (11am service only)
Sunday School will not meet

January 8

Epiphany celebrated

WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER

Celebration of the Lord's Supper **Sunday, December 4**
Preparing communion **Sandy and Larry Day**
 Lynn Creamer

Elders serving communion
 (1st service) **Sandy and Larry Day**
 (2nd service) **Bill Claus, Dana Lee, Chad Wayner, Vito Addotta**

Greeters/Ushers
December 4 (1st service) **Jill and Myron Borsdam**
 (2nd service) **Joan and Lyman Drake**

December 11 (1st service) **Barbara and Warren Cain**
 (2nd service) **Julie and Frank Keplinger**

December 18 (1st service) **Betsy and Ed Douglas**
 (2nd service) **Jean Wardell and Carole Milks**

December 24: Christmas Eve Service, 5pm
Preparing communion: Linda Harrison and Linda Makranczy
Ushers/Greeters: Don Ramirez and Ted Makranczy

December 25 **There will be no 8:30 service**
 (2nd service) **Kellee and Bill Eastwood**

Officer of the Week:

December 4	Linda Makranczy	December 11	Carl Buck
December 18	Julie Keplinger	December 25	Kellee Eastwood



Thank you to all who contributed to "Happy Face," both with generous contributions and contributions of food. The Fluvanna Christian Service Society, which consists of local churches, organizations, and county citizens, has worked to provide assistance to county families in need for the past twenty years. Two main services provided are the Food Pantry and the Happy Face Christmas program. South Plains is glad to be a part of this.

Prayer Matters

Jay Chronister	Surgery, December 2
Allen Smith	Prayers for his family
Abigail Faith Young	Further surgery, Bowie's great-granddaughter
Stan Harrison	Stroke
Phil Keaton	Martha Jefferson, infection
Jennifer Skipper	at the death of her mother
Douglas and Alexander Arner	
Peter Dalstrom	Martha Smith's brother
David Hordyke	Healing prayers
Keaton Manzano	Grandson of the Keatons, prayers for healing
Ethan Blevins	Leukemia
Earl Biel	Healing prayers
Coptic Christians in Egypt	
Carol Daniels	Healing prayers
Peter Schumann	Home
Kingsley Brown and wife Janice	
Bill Morris	POJ, cancer
Anne Cargill Baker	Westminster Presbyterian, brain tumor
Harry Johns	POJ, receiving treatment for cancer, doing well
Gordon Smyth	Healthcare, Westminster Canterbury
Laurie Day	Sandy and Larry Day's daughter, prolonged knee therapy
Pat Bigler	Chronister's friend, cancer
Miriah Fentress	Clapp's friend, leukemia
George Hambrick	Colonnades
Joan Cabell	Bowie's friend with pneumonia
Michelle Johnson	Vascular Sarcoma
Monford Rice	Cancer surgery, Becky and Frank Kurtz's son-in-law
Gary Weber	Friend of the Lakes, cancer
Billy Scharpf	Home
Charlotte Durham	Arthritis
Crosby Smith	Home
Prayers for Youngs at Grenada Church	
Pat and Connie Shepherd	Health issues, Keplinger family
Jenny Matthews	Friend of Kuhns with recurrence of cancer
Marge Hampton	Thoughtful prayers
Randy Michie	Friend of Jim Higginbotham
Danny Raible	Multiple myeloma, friend of Meg and
Mary Harris	Neal Harris' mother, Our Lady of Peace
Theresa Naylor	Neal Harris' aunt, Our Lady of Peace
Janet Riddle	Healing prayers
Stan Goodsill	Health Care, Westminster Canterbury
Cecil Shiflett	Recovering from surgery
Dreama Travis	Lucille Campbell's friend, cancer
Doris Richards	Marge Hampton's sister
Alf Dane	Lyn Johnson's uncle
Robert James	UVA Hospital, cancer treatment



CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Session has called congregational meetings at 9:30am and noon on January 8, 2012, for the purpose of making changes in the minister's call, reviewing the budget, changing procedures for congregational meetings, and calling a meeting of the corporation.

CELEBRATION OF THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF MEMBERSHIP

There are eight members of our congregation who have held membership here, or have served, at South Plains for 25 years or more:

Gilbert Milks	Annette Behnke
Kay Payne	Mary Howard
Lucille Campbell	Marion Thompson
Garland West	John Thompson

They will be honored on December 11 at our 11am service and at fellowship afterward.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join South Plains in Christmas Caroling on December 18. We'll start at about 3:00 to take advantage of the late afternoon sunlight. We'll conclude with refreshments.



Who can go caroling? EVERYBODY ... this is your chance to make a joyful noise. Children, youth, adults—all are welcome! Caroling is a wonderful Christmas tradition for families with children of all ages.

Caroling groups will be assigned by geographic area. We also hope to have a youth, grades 6-12, caroling group (with adult drivers).

To add an extra measure of JOY to your Christmas season, plan to join the carolers. Please help planners by signing up if you want to join the carolers ... or if you just think you MIGHT be able to join the carolers. Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex, in the church office, or see Pat Valentine.

CROP WALK

"I am happy to inform you that so far this year our CROP WALK has raised over \$29,218 to help hungry people throughout the world. There were 215 persons walking this year. The money raised goes not only for food and medical assistance, but also to help people obtain the supplies they need to become self-sufficient. Thank you for this response to our faith."

Taylor Beard, Leader, Charlottesville-Albemarle CROP WALK

*Psalm 91:4, He will cover you with his feathers.
He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful
promises are your armor and protection.*






Military and Government Service


Canon Andrew White	Afghanistan
Andrew Kemon	Carole Milks' great nephew, Army National Guard, Iraq
Rob Young	Grandson of Barbara and Rick Bowie, USAF, U.S.
Rick Young	Grandson of Barbara and Rick Bowe, USAF, U.S.
Allen Smith	Fighting cancer
Ralph Pruitt	Deployed to Iraq
Charles Jones	USN, Pensacola, FL
Josh Sobotincic	Gil and Carole Milks' grandson in U.S.
James Webb	Georgia, automobile accident
Marshall Baughman	Afghanistan
Michael Kolton	Joanne and Vito Addotta's grandson, Afghanistan
Mark Little	Recovering well with prosthesis
Doug Fenton	PCUSA chaplain-PTS
Andrew Scogna	Rehabilitation
Rob Jones	U.S. Army, Basic Training


South Plains Financial	Year to Date	2011 Budget
October		
Income		
Offering	186,646.75	196,000.00
Interest/Dividends	5.58	10.00
Other		
Total Income	186,652.33	196,010.00
Expense		
Ministerial	66,836.75	83,070.00
Administrative	11,895.51	14,650.00
Utilities	9,106.81	7,600.00
Buildings and Grounds	11,574.90	18,240.00
Worship and Music	10,199.10	14,330.00
Christian Education	1,162.59	3,160.00
Congregational Care	106.01	1,000.00
Fellowship	1,193.01	2,000.00
Long Range Planning	65.89	50.00
Finance	261.55	1,510.00
Evangelism	246.56	1,450.00
Benevolence and Mission	11,191.89	16,940.00
Trustees	4,329.51	5,345.00
Other	3,622.67	18,180.00
Total Expense	131,792.75	187,525.00
Net Gain/(Loss)	54,859.58	8,485.00








 The Sanctuary and Kirk Hall will be decorated for the holidays on December 10, beginning at 9am. Bring your scissors, work gloves, and wire cutters and be ready to DECORATE! Call Julie Keplinger at 977-0189 with any questions
 









NOVEMBER SESSION RECAP

Session met November 15 and after sharing congregational concerns and devotions approved:

- The examination of Phil Keaton as elder-elect and heard the Christian experience of Phil, Lyn Johnson, and Linda Makranczy.
- January 15 as the ordination of Phil and installation of all three new elders.
- Applying any 2011 surplus funds to the SunTrust mortgage.
- Calling the annual congregational meetings January 8, 2012, for the purpose of approving changes in the pastor's call, presenting the budget, making any necessary changes in congregational procedures (per the Book of Order), and meeting as the corporation.

Session heard reports that:

- Changes in the Book of Order require us to prepare an Operations Manual that includes a sexual misconduct policy (David and Warren will draft a policy for session).
- When as many as 50 cars are expected by groups using our facilities, a parking attendant must be provided to direct traffic.
- No Sunday School December 11 (rehearsal) and December 18 (pageant).
- Estimated income for 2012 is \$211,500.
- Ungroup meets December 9 at the home of Sandy and Larry Day.
- Ads will appear in the Faith and Values Daily Progress and in a worship directory for area lodging.
- Construction of the playground will begin after Thanksgiving.
- Ushers will be asked to pick up trash after 8:30am worship and turn off sanctuary lights and gather friendship pads after 11am worship.
- Punch list for Martin Horn includes fixing office door lock, sealing outside doors and filling cracks in wood, adjusting door to lock at landing.

Meeting was closed with prayer.



THE VERY FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IN KIRK HALL

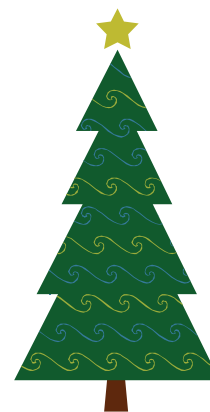
“A CHRISMON CELEBRATION”

Christmas Pageant

Kirk Hall

December 18, 2011

9:45am



This year's Christmas pageant was written just for South Plains. It will include children, youth, and adults from the Sunday School as well as the choir. You will enjoy a traditional Nativity pageant along with a joyful celebration of the South Plains Chrismon Tree.

Students and teachers are working diligently to present a wonderful Christmas program. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Pageant on December 18. We need YOU to be the audience. There will only be ONE first Christmas Pageant in Kirk Hall—you won't want to miss it!

THANK YOU, MARY HOWARD

Mary Howard is retiring after 17 years of outstanding service to south Plains as our Financial Secretary, recording contributions and crediting them to each household with meticulous care. Discretion and accuracy have been the hallmarks of her record keeping. Her longevity in that position has meant that the church has accumulated a deep reservoir of confidence, essential to good stewardship. As a result, members know that their questions are answered promptly and with care. We are grateful to God for this expression of Mary's commitment to serving Christ's church.

Beginning January 1, 2012, Mike Lee assumes the duties of Financial Secretary.



THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FLOWER

The poinsettia has a colorful history dating back to the ancient Aztec people who viewed the plant as a symbol of purity. A few hundred years later, Christians in Mexico thought the star-shaped leaves symbolized the Star of Bethlehem that led Joseph and Mary to the stable where Jesus was born. This, coupled with the fact that the plant was in full bloom during Christmas time, caused people to associate them with the holiday, which is why they are still the most used plant during that special time of year.

Poinsettias also have a place in Mexican legend that tells why the usually red plants are said to be known as Christmas flowers. Long ago, a poor child was said to be wandering down a road on Christmas Eve on his way to church, worried that he didn't have a gift to offer the Christ child on his birthday. He picked a few weeds growing alongside the road and brought them into the church where the congregation said that any humble gift given out of love was good enough, and soon the weeds turned into colorful red and green leaves, causing the people to call it a Christmas miracle.

By Jason M. West

A STORY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A. PASTORS AND CHURCH WORKERS UPLIFTED BY THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING AND THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

Retirement many times can lead to periods of financial instability, especially when medical expenses accrue. Through an emergency assistance grant and a monthly housing supplement from the Assistance Program, a 101-year-old retired church worker was able to purchase new hearing aids and continue to live comfortably and receive proper care at a retirement community. Her children expressed an outpouring of gratitude to the Assistance Program and those who support it for saving their mother from financial failure and helping her to maintain a decent quality of life in her final years "She never expected to outlive her lifelong thriftiness," her son said.

"Alice in Wonderland"

Our own Bess Brown has a part in this Black Box Players' fall musical production. You will find Bess in the ensemble of birds! For more information www.blackboxplayers.com.

Congratulations, Bess!

ALLIANCE FOR INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

During these challenging economic times, it should come as no surprise to learn that there continues to be a steady flow of people coming into the AIM office seeking help with their rent, utility bills, or other financial crises. From January through October of 2011, assistance has been given to 627 households in the local area. These folks could not be helped without the support that your congregation has given to this outreach program. We especially thank you for your support at our recent benefit concert that celebrated 30 years of providing emergency assistance to local families.

Your congregation is one of 46 congregations representing a wide variety of faiths that supports this effort. The work that AIM does is also a big help to all those congregations who regularly get calls from strangers asking for help. Instead of spending large amounts of time researching the request and deciding whether or not to give them congregational funds, pastors and their staffs can refer these people to AIM where a thorough review of their request is made.

AIM has once again been approved to participate in the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC). This is a workplace giving program that allows state employees to give to charities of their choice through a pre-tax payroll deduction. This applies to UVa employees, public school teachers and staff, and many others who work for the state. The campaign runs through the end of 2011. Giving to AIM through the CVC is a very easy way for you to give back to the community in a personal way! When signing up for it, be sure to indicate AIM's code: CVC#3966. For more information, visit the AIM website (www.avenue.org/aim) or call Drene DeGood at 972-1704.

Dear Habitat Volunteers,

We just finished the first two homes at Sunrise Park! Work continues there as usual, but we're looking for additional volunteers to help with an urgent need for painting next week at our new office. We have to be out of our current office before the new year and are working towards moving in the middle of December before the holidays.

The building is at the corner of 10th and W. Main (near Ariana Afghan Grill and Team Tire), easily walkable from UVa grounds and the Corner. We've got a painting prep shift (taping windows and laying drop cloths) on Monday morning, and then morning and afternoon painting shifts on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. For more information and to sign up for a shift online, please click on "Sign up!" on the volunteer tab of our website: www.cvillehabitat.org When the system asks you for a "join code," just click "next!"

Thanks, and hope to see you next week for Paintapalooza!

Katie Geisshuesler

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

IMPACT will tackle the issue of job preparation and job readiness for young adults this winter. In October 440 people from our member congregations voiced their concern for the quality of jobs available in our area. The IMPACT model is to gather information from local agencies and institutions over the next three months. This is the research phase. The goal is to find a plan that has three characteristics: a) the consensus support of IMPACT congregations; b) a high likelihood of being achievable; and c) specific enough to monitor progress clearly. This plan will then be taken on March 28th to the community leaders who have contributed to the research to ask for their support.

IMPACT is building a reputation for bringing together ideas and support for a better community. If you want to be part of researching the need for job readiness for young adults, speak to Chad Wayner or David Garth or call IMPACT, 220-2450.

<u>Class of 2011</u>	<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>
Jay Chronister	Warren Cain	Carl Buck
Linda Makranczy	Julie Keplinger	Kellee Eastwood
Travis Taylor	June Mueller	Chad Wayner

SESSION CONTACT PERSON

Clerk of Session	Linda Harrison 296-9992
Administration and Finance	Warren Cain 295-2113
Building and Grounds	Carl Buck 244-0871
Christian Education	Kellee Eastwood 589-2705
Congregational Care	Julie Keplinger* 977-0189
Evangelism and Outreach	Travis Taylor 973-2318
Missions	Chad Wayner 227-2027
Fellowship	June Mueller 589-8221
Long-Range Planning	Jay Chronister 589-3685
Worship	Linda Makranczy 589-2651
	*Trustee

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	David K. Garth, ThD
Treasurer	Doug Valentine
Organists	Eleanor Dickerman
	Margaret Moore
Presbyterian Women	Mary Reitsma, Kellee Eastwood, Co-Moderators
Administrative Assistant	Dana Lee

REGULARLY-SCHEDULED EVENTS

Church School	9:45am
Morning Worship	8:30am & 11am
Choir	Wednesdays, 7pm
Session	Third Tuesday, 7pm
Presbyterian Women	Second Monday, 9:30am
The South Plains Mission Crafters and Benevolence Society	Third Sunday, noon
Agape	As scheduled
Ungroup	As scheduled



**DEADLINE FOR JANUARY
REFLECTOR
DECEMBER 26**

