



December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Circle 1 @ Mae's	3 Advent Meal/ Advent Wreaths Choir Rehearsal	4 Community Tree Lighting Handbell Rehearsal	5	6
7 Bible-in-a-Year Challenge Lunch Deposits due for Wknd Mission Trip	8 Church Office Closed—Staff to Boone to process shoeboxes for OCC	9	10 BCM Study Advent Meal/ Candy Houses Choir Rehearsal	11 Handbell Rehearsal	12 Angel Tree Gifts due to Salvation Army	13
14 Session Mtg. Christmas Cantata Beacon Christmas Party	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal	18 Keenager Trip to Wohlfahrt Haus Handbell Rehearsal	19	20
21 Practice for Children's C. E. Service	22	23	24 Children's C. E. Service/ Candlelight Communion Church Office Closed	25 Nativity of Our Lord Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 After Christmas Social Beacon Movie Night	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal			

Beacon News

Parent Youth Kickoff

Join us on **Sunday, January 11th**, immediately following worship. We will take a look back at where we have been in the last year and take a look ahead to where we are going. All youth and their parents are invited to attend. Our rising 6th grade Beacons and their families are also invited to attend and get a glimpse of what is in store for them. Each family is asked to bring a dessert to share. Sign up on the CE bulletin board.

Movie Night in the Tiki Room Theater

Hey Beacons! Come on over to the Brown's (169 Beechtree Circle) house on **Sunday, December 28**, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We'll ring out 2008, watch a movie, have some good movie eats, and a discussion to follow. Hope to see you there! **Parents: please drop off and pick up at the Brown's house.** If you need directions, please contact Shasta.

Community Tree Lighting and Hot Chocolate

On **Thursday, December 4th**, at 6:00 p.m., come out and see the lights, drink some hot chocolate, hear the music and words of the season, talk to Santa and welcome the holidays to Mount Airy. The Beacons will be on hand serving hot chocolate.

Beacon Christmas Party

The Beacons will celebrate the Christmas season at the Vineyard on **Sunday, December 14th**. We will meet at the church at 3:00 p.m. to begin our travels. **Your orders for the Samaritan's Purse gift exchange are due into Shasta by Sunday, December 7th.** If you didn't get a catalog, give Shasta a call.

Montreat Summer Youth Conference 2009

Summer is just around the corner, and that means Montreat, and time to register for Summer Youth Conference. If you are a rising freshman through graduated senior then you are eligible to attend Summer Youth Conference. **A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due in to Shasta by Monday, January 5th.** Our tentative date for Montreat is August 2-8, 2009. We hope to see you there!

Advent Activities

Wednesday nights in Advent will be a time of fun, food and fellowship!

Our Advent festivities will begin on **Wednesday, December 3rd**. Each Wednesday meal will begin at 5:45 p.m. with activities to follow around 6:30 p.m.

December 3:

Activity—Advent Wreaths (please bring greenery with you to use in your wreath)

Menu—Baked spaghetti and salad, bread and dessert

December 10

Activity—Candy Houses

Menu—Baked Ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, apples, bread and dessert

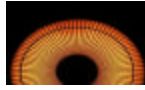


Children's Christmas Eve Service

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Eve service, please sign up on the board in the upstairs foyer by **Sunday, December 14th**. We have speaking and non-speaking parts. Stage managers are needed. Practice for the service will be on Sunday, December 21st at 5:30 p.m.

After Christmas Social

In lieu of Sunday School on **Sunday, December 28th**, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and good conversation. Bring your Christmas goodies to share. The church will provide biscuits and drinks.



CELEBRATING GOD'S MISSION FOR OUR CHURCH
Fall Stewardship 2008 Update

First, we wish to thank all church members who saw fit to make a pledge to God's church for the coming year. It is essential to our financial planning that we go into the new year knowing what to expect. Your commitment to First Presbyterian is much appreciated!

As we all know, the economy has been difficult this year, for all of us. Perhaps it's to be expected that this would have an impact on our church's pledged giving. Our 2009 budget called for pledged giving of \$267,302 that asked members to increase their giving from 2008 by 7%. As you see below, we fell short of that goal by \$33,808.

Total pledge cards turned in for 2009:	93	(99 turned in for 2008)
Total pledges for 2009:	\$233,494	
Shortfall from 2009 approved budget:	\$ 33,808	(\$17,231 short of 2008 budget)
Total increase pledges from 2008	32	
Total decrease pledges from 2008	21	
Total same pledges as 2008	30	

It is not unusual for our church to encounter a shortfall in Stewardship, but this is a particularly large one. At their December meeting, the session will consider a revised budget that will call for significant cuts in programs and ministries, outreach and missions, and staff compensation. Our church will enter 2009 with a renewed mission to "do more with less!"

Our church is not unique – all are "feeling the squeeze" when it comes to their financial situation. Once again, we are grateful for the funds that have been pledged for next year and will diligently work to put them to use in a way that carries forth the mission of our church!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Stewardship co-moderators this year!

Diane Wood and Jim Younger

December 2008 Sermons

Note: Sermons are available by the church's website, www.fpcma.com. You may also call the church office to be added to the sermon e-mail list.

December 7, 2008
Making Way For The Road
Mark 1: 1-8; Isaiah 40: 1-10

December 14, 2008
Christmas Cantata

December 21, 2008
If The Sheep Could Talk
Luke 2: 6-20

December 24, 2008 - Candlelight Service
An Inkeeper Speaks
Luke 2:7

December 28, 2008
Nancy Williams -Berry preaching

January 2008 Sermons

January 4, 2009
With The Stroke of a Pen
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

January 11, 2009
Who's Really Imprisoned
Acts 16: 16-40

January 18, 2009
It Doesn't Have To Be The Way It Is
Matthew 5: 38-48

January 25, 2009
Jesus, Line 3
Luke 2: 41-52, Psalm 139: 1-10