

# First Presbyterian News

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C. Russell Lee, Jr., Pastor, D. Min.

January 2010

Office Hours: 9am to 1pm Monday-Friday

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Dear First Folks,

God has brought us safely through another year. Many things are different. Many are the same. What is clear is that God is faithful and that this congregation is very fortunate to be growing, thriving, and ministering to people here and across the world.

Thank you so much for your partnership in the gospel! Welcome to those who came on board this past year, and to those who will join us this year.

This journey of faith is one of divinity and miracle. It is one of long-held beliefs and the freshness that a living God can bring.

Let us approach the new year with hope and expectation. Let us partner together with one another to change the world and hold up the gospel.

Hope to see you soon!

In Him,

Russell



*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*

## Sermon Topics for January

<i>January 3</i>	Sermon: The Light Shines
Scripture: Psalm 147:1-5	John 1:1-9
<i>January 10</i>	Sermon: Heaven Was Opened
Scripture: Psalm 29:1-6	John 3:15-22
<i>January 17</i>	Sermon: Draw Some Out
Scripture: Psalm 36:5-10	John 2:1-11
<i>January 24</i>	Sermon: Jesus' First Sermon
Scripture: Psalm 19:1-4	Luke 4:14-21
<i>January 31</i>	Sermon: Walking Right Through
Scripture: Psalm 71:1-6	Luke 4:21-30
<i>February 7</i>	Sermon: Deep Water
Scripture: Psalm 138:1-4	Luke 5:1-11

**Two Cents a Meal Sunday is January 31st**

**Officers' Meetings - Monday, January 18th**

7:00 pm Diaconate meets

7:30 pm Session meets

**The Ladies Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Philathea parlor. The lesson will be from Jeremiah 3:1-13 and chapters 27 – 28 taught by Wendy Daniel. Jo Roberts will be the hostess. All ladies are welcome.

**Congratulation to the Officers for the Class of 2012** who will be ordained/installed the first two Sundays of January. They include: Elder-Loretta Brown, Mike Koch, Stewart Nelson; Deacon-Julianna Berry, Winston Harrell, Judd Lassiter; and Trustee-Michael Freshour. Also, many thanks to our outgoing officers from the Class of 2009: Elder - Carol Foster, Michael Marvin, Patty Nelson; Deacon-Susan Cheever, John Edwards, Michael Freshour; and Trustee-Loretta Brown.

To the Church Triumphant  
**Dr. Frank Blackwell Godbold, Jr.**  
March 30, 1923 - November 28, 2009

To the Church Triumphant  
**Jane Rae Ellixson**  
December 9, 1915 - December 15, 2009

**Our Wednesday Fellowship Dinners** resume this month on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month. Dinner will be followed by our various Wednesday activities: Bible study, handbells, and choir. As with most other things these days, we find that we must increase the cost to \$6.00/person. Children's meals will remain at \$4.00, and the family maximum (2 parents or grandparents + children) will increase to \$15.00.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers  
January 13 & 27

Cost: Teens and adults	\$6.00
Children 12 and under	\$4.00
Children 4 and under	Free
Family Plan—	\$15.00 maximum

Menu:

Jan. 13 - Roast beef, potatoes & carrots  
Jan. 27 - Baked chicken & salad

**COME EAT AND FELLOWSHIP WITH US**

Other Wednesday night meetings include:  
Handbell practice at 6:30 pm  
Bible Study at 6:30 pm  
Choir practice at 7:30 pm

Dinner reservations are needed by 12 noon on the Monday before the dinner.

The Pastors' Class is hosting this month's meals.

# Youth Fellowship

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Greetings, and Happy New Year!

I am very excited about all of the things God has in store for us this year! Now that the Christmas holidays are drawing to a close, we will start having Youth meetings again on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:30. We can look forward to spending some time studying God's word and learning some new songs, maybe even playing some new games. Coming up, we will be working on renovating the Youth room upstairs, so there may be some Saturday time to consider.

On another note, I have been thinking about maybe planning a ski trip for this year if we have enough interest. It would at least be open to all of the families of the Youth Group, maybe even the whole church. If you are interested, please contact me either by e-mail [jimyc@1stpres.cc](mailto:jimyc@1stpres.cc) or on my cell 336-675-6518, or you can catch me here at the church on Wednesdays or Sundays.

The Winter Jam tour is coming to Greensboro on Saturday, February 6th, if anyone is interested. Bands playing will be Third Day, Newsboys, Newsong, and others. Tickets are only \$10, and I can promise you the music will be great. I could take a small group myself, or we could meet here at the church for a larger group.

Lots of possibilities for the year, folks, wonderful to have you all in support and prayer for us.

*Jim*

**Renovations** - Work will begin soon on renovations to the Youth Room upstairs. Our goal is to provide a safe, interesting room, that appeals to the Youth—somewhere special they can call their own. We are going to need a few things such as paint, carpet, and some new furniture. If you are interested in making a donation to this effort, please e-mail Jim Bailey at [jimyc@1stpres.cc](mailto:jimyc@1stpres.cc), or call the church office.

**Special Committee** - The Session has appointed a special committee to see how we might proceed toward purchasing the property next door. They will look at zoning, negotiations, property ownership issues, legal issues, and financial issues before recommending a way to proceed. Final recommendations will be brought to the session, and a congregational meeting will be scheduled if they find the way clear for this new acquisition. Please be in prayer for this group. The members of the committee are Chris Lumsden, Carter Henderson, Jerry Grubbs, Tommy Daniel, Stewart Nelson, Carroll Thackston, Wayne Adams, and advisory member Dr. Lee.

**Fellowship Hall  
Informational Meeting**  
January 17th  
after 11 o'clock worship



As 2010 begins, we move into our second full year of AngelFood ministry. Our first year saw many changes and adjustments to the program. Customers are now able to purchase on-line, either through our church website or the AngelFood Ministries web site. Credit card ordering is available, in addition to cash or food stamps. Any of the boxes offered is available for purchase without the requirement of having to first purchase a Signature or Senior box. The truck now delivers the food directly to our parking lot. All of these changes have resulted in much better service to our customers, and a more efficient operation.

We partner with two other churches - informally with McCanless Memorial Methodist, and formally with Gravel Hill Baptist - making it possible for those folks to further spread the benefits to their church families and friends. We have a solid base of approximately 40 volunteers who are committed to this ministry, and our orders are holding steady at 150 - 250 boxes of food delivered each month. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in any way, contact Debbie Ferguson. What amazing work God has done in one year!


**December order dates:**  
**Sunday, January 3rd - 12 to 1 pm**  
**Tuesday, January 5th - 11 am to 1 pm**  
**Thursday, January 7th - 4:30 to 6:30 pm**  
**Delivery date:**  
**Saturday, January 23rd - 8 to 9:30 am**

The menu is available online at [angelfoodministries.com](http://angelfoodministries.com) and also in the Sunday School foyer. Please share a menu with your neighbors and work associates!



# 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12 noon AA  Office Closed	2
3 9 am Worship 10 am S School 11am Worship 12-1 pm Angel Food Orders 3 pm Youth	4 9:30 am Prayer Group	5 10:30 am Ladies' Circle 11 am-1 pm Angel Food 7 pm Women's Study Group	6 8:15 Moms 12 noon AA  6:30 Handbells	7 12 noon NA 4:30-6:30 pm Angel Food 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	8 9 am Bulletins  12 noon AA	9
10 9 am Worship 10 am Sunday School 11am Worship  3 pm Youth	11 9:30 am Prayer Group	12	13 8:15 Moms 12 noon AA 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	14 12 noon NA 10 Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	15 9 am Bulletins  12 noon AA	16
17 9 am Worship 10 am S School 11am Worship  3 pm Youth	18 9:30 am Prayer Group  7 pm Diaconate 7:30 pm Session	19  7 pm Women's Study Group	20 9 am Bulletins 12 noon AA  6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	21 12 noon NA 10 Women's Bible Study 7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	22 9 am Bulletins  12 noon AA	23 8-9:30 am Angel Food
24/31 9 am Worship 10 am S School 11am Worship  3 pm Youth	25 9:30 am Prayer Group  <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	26	27 8:15 Moms 12 noon AA 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Bible Study 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Choir	28 12 noon NA 10 Women's Bible Study  7 pm Men of the Church 8 pm AA	29 9 am Bulletins & newsletters  12 noon AA	30 

Bonjour tout le monde!

I considered writing this note in French and English, but somehow, that seems counterproductive.

After nearly 7 months of French school, I have already attained the level B1. The Cameroon branch expects each missionary to be solid in the B2 level before arrival: *"Can understand the main ideas of complex text, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party."* I have scored quite high in conversational skills, but my writing composition, as in English, is the worst.

I am blessed with an amazing and active community in Switzerland and can carry out daily life at home, in church, and downtown in French. As most of you know, Dad was able to visit before Thanksgiving, and it was wonderful to be able to share this experience with him. Thanks for letting him come see me and praise God that I was able to come home and see my family and friends for Christmas.

Mandi, one of the missionaries who has been studying in Neuchâtel since January, will be going to Cameroon in January. The rest of us have a few more months of study, and now it seems we can go straight to Africa without much delay, maybe without returning home first. This is new information, as originally we expected to be delayed till September if we missed the January training.

Please pray for the other four returning missionaries, and for the final preparations of four new students that will be arriving in the coming months. Please pray that I have not lost much French in my weeks here and that I can rapidly pick back up where I left off. Be with me as I prepare for the more challenging transition to Cameroonian life and my new duties. Thank you all for your continuing support.

In Christ,  
~Matthew Lee, Wycliffe Bible Translators

### January Birthdays

- 1 Richard Harrell IV
- 1 Dabney Gilliam
- 1 Clarice Crews
- 3 Ruth Jean Slayton
- 4 John Cranford
- 5 Matt Shepperd
- 7 Kay Lewis
- 7 Donna Mistal
- 10 Leon Plaster
- 10 Joshua Roberts
- 10 John Wilder
- 13 Dorothy Strickland\*
- 14 Ina Collins
- 14 Tom Lovelace
- 14 Paige Powell
- 14 Emily Seat
- 15 Karen Henderson
- 19 Susan Brooks
- 19 Eric Nelson
- 19 Wendy Stark
- 21 Peggy Fuller
- 22 Jim Powell \*
- 25 Linda Lumsden
- 26 Jaclyn Krogh
- 26 David Ulbrich \*
- 31 Jenny Wilkins

\*remembered  
Please let the church office know if we don't have your birthday on our list.



## Bible Study Opportunities

**Men of the Church** will resume their meetings on Thursday evening, January 7th at 7 pm. They are continuing their study of the Gospel of Luke. On regular meeting nights, a group meets for dinner at 5:50 pm at Roma's. Come out and join these men for fellowship, food, and study!

*Christian Women's Bible Study  
The Women's Thursday morning Bible Study  
will resume our study of the Gospel of John on  
January 14, 2010 at 10:00 am*

*Even if you missed the first session don't hesitate to join us for the second session; there is still much to learn! We are studying the social customs of the day, and also the political aspects of this time and the impact that it had on Jesus' ministry. Most importantly, we are learning how we can apply the many spiritual truths that John reveals to us, in our daily lives.*

**Women's Study Group** meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7-8:30 pm (January 5 & 19). They are continuing their study of "Calm My Anxious Heart" by Linda Dillow. Join this group for study, support and fellowship. Contact Deborah Sizemore for more information.

**The Lifeweaver's Discussion Class** (now meeting in the library) will begin this week looking at Roger E. Olson's book "Finding God in the Shack." Why look at "The Shack" - "...probably no question about God disturbs Christians and non-Christians more than this one: How can an all-good, all powerful God cause or even allow such horrible loss of human life? How can a God of love allow the departure of someone I love so dearly?,,,These questions cause people to wonder about God's character."

Together we will discuss these questions and others as we look into the meaning in "The Shack." Hope you've found time to read the book - it's still not too late - but come to Sunday School either way. See you there.

**Year End Giving** - Thank you for your gifts and pledges in 2009. The 2009 church accounts will be kept open until January 4, 2010, for you to finish up pledges and make additional gifts. You may also give stock through Edward Jones brokers. Please be sure to mark any gifts clearly for 2009 in order to receive credit. May God continue to bless you as you are faithful!

**Flower Calendar** - The Flower Calendar for 2010 is located on the office door. You can stop by or call the office to choose a date to enhance worship with the gift of flowers for the sanctuary.

**Virtual Poinsettias** - Many thanks to all who contributed to this year's project. The church looked beautiful, inside and out. But more importantly, we raised \$612 for The Good Samaritan to help the needy of our community.

**Book Orders** - Volume 1 of Dr. Lee's In the Carpenter's Workshop will be available in the next few weeks. Pre-orders for this 160-page paperback book, containing selected articles from 2004 & 2005, can be made by calling 434-572-3581 or online at [1stpres.cc](http://1stpres.cc). The cost will be \$9.95 (plus \$3.00 each for shipping, if mailed). Copies will be available at several locations in South Boston after publication. Proceeds from sales will be used for mission projects in the community and beyond.

### January Highlights

- January 3, 5 & 7 - Angel Food orders
- January 5 & 19 - Women's Study Group
- January 13 & 27 - Wonderful Wednesdays
- January 23rd - Angel Food distribution
- January 18th - Officers' meetings
- Prayer Group - Mondays at 9:30 am
- Moms in Touch - Wednesdays at 8:15 am
- Handbells - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- Choir - Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
- Christian Women's Bible Study - Thursdays at 10 am (begins Jan. 14th)

First Presbyterian Church  
800 North Main Street  
South Boston, VA 24592

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Here is your January newsletter...**