

our vision is...
To *identify* and *claim* our
God-given gifts and use
them to:
Reach the world with
Christ's good news;
Equip each other as
disciples;
Respond, "Here I am,"
when the Spirit calls.

Come Thou long

expected *Jesus*

fill us with all

joy and peace

A Message from Joe: Merry Christmas!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! My timing may be a bit early when you read this but the message is always timely. Into the world we live in – one of light and darkness – the promise of Christmas comes.

As a church we have been in and out of the darkness throughout this year. We have had too many saints of the church pass away. We have also been through great joy with our 50th Anniversary celebration. We have had the privilege of remembering and learning the history of God's work in and through Forest Hills and the people God has called as his disciples. In short, we have celebrated and we have grieved, and God has been faithful throughout.

Advent rekindles hope for the entire world. As the darkness is said to be afraid of the light we are eager for more light, and it does come! Advent challenges us to expect more, to expend our hopes, to release God from our "box" and to look for the One who is mighty and always faithful.

The first Christmas vindicated the world's hope in what was to come. Christmas today can vindicate what is happening now and what will come about in God's plan for the fullness of time. Rev. J. McDonald, my seminary president writes, "Hope is more than wishing and has nothing to do with optimism. Hope springs from what we know about God. And what we know about God is what we learn from Scripture, what we experience in prayer, what we discover in community, what we glimpse in acts of compassion, forgiveness and justice. Hope propels us into the future."

I pray that this Advent and Christmas is for you and your family a support for your faith and a springboard for your hope in the gospel's promises. May you lean forward in anticipation of the bigger and better plans that God has in mind for you, for Christ's church and for our world. The God of love, who came to us in Jesus Christ, is the Lord of history and beckons us onward.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Amen.

Merry Christmas!
Rev. Joe Blankinship

"For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Luke 18:14b

mark your calendar!

<p>Dec 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Collection of Joy Offering @ Worship *Chili, Soup & Caroling @ 5pm *After Party @ the Simmons House 	<p>Dec 24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols @ 5:30pm</p>	<p>Dec 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Mobile Meals @ 9am (new time) *Christmas Worship @ 11am
<p>Dec 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Deadline for 2011 Donations @ 10am 	<p>Jan 5</p> <p>Community Clinic Meal @ 5pm</p>	<p>Jan 8</p> <p>Fellowship Lunch following Worship; Entertainment: Children & Youth Christmas Program</p>

In Our Church Prayers

Keith Silver; Charlene Berube; Khacky Lambeth; Martha Millard; Mac and Kathy Fairly, brother and sister-in-law of Cindy Salter; **Clarisse Coffey**, mother of Charlie Christian; **Kathy Sechrist** and her sister **Ann Long; Carolyn Mallard**, sister of Bobby Johnson; **Carrie Gayle and her mother; Mich Krull; Gretchen Braswell; Bobbye Jones; Timothy Strickland**, father of Janice Grady; **Mary Parker; Gib White; Marion Stephenson; Sylvia White**, aunt of Krissa Schaaf; **Marjorie Coughenour**, mother of Cindy Salter; **Bob Winzeler**, brother of Dan Winzeler; **Nancy Blanchard; Peggy Cox**, mother of Teresa McGee; **Won Cong**, Nelson Tagalk's sister's granddaughter; **Rachel & Raymond Taylor**, parents of Betsy Garber; **Bill Wrenn; Jodi Barlow; Church Leadership; Randy Scoggins**, friend of the McKenna's; **Brandon Vernet; Ann Bencini**.

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry Leaders for December are Marvin & Bobbye Jones. To include or remove your prayer request or joyful noise, call the office at 883-4239 or email foresthills@northstate.net. If your prayer request is confidential in nature please note that in your email.

Christmas Day Mobile Meals

Please note that the start time for the delivery of Mobile Meals on Christmas morning has been changed to 9:00 AM. This will allow folks to be complete in time for the Christmas Day Worship Service at 11:00 AM. If you have any questions see Lee or Carole Richie or Chuck Ritchie ASAP.

December Service Volunteers

December 18

Acolyte: Maura Drewry
Nursery Volunteer: Dale & Sheila McKenna
Nursery Floaters: Diana & Claire Engel
Ushers: Cathy & Bill Bencini, Groome Fulton & Randy Simmons
Elders on Call/Greeters: Randy Simmons & Gay Wyche
Hospitality Elder: Randy Simmons
Children's Sermon: Mich Krull
Flower Ministry: Tee Childress
Sanctuary Flowers: Poinsettia's
Chancel Guild: Advent Waterer's

December 24

Ushers: Cathy & Bill Bencini, Groome Fulton
Elders on Call/Greeters: Gay Wyche & Tom Schaaf
Hospitality Elder: Tom Schaaf

December 25

Acolyte: Claire Engel
Nursery Volunteer: Meghan Patterson & Carolyn Troutman
Nursery Floaters: Ken & Betsy Garber
Ushers: Tom Schaaf, Cathy & Bill Bencini
Elders on Call/Greeters: Randy Simmons & Gay Wyche
Hospitality Elder: Tom Schaaf
Children's Sermon: Tom Schaaf
Flower Ministry: Linda Sasser & Pat Simmons
Sanctuary Flowers: Poinsettia's
Chancel Guild: Advent Waterer's

December Celebrations!

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or listed incorrectly please contact the church office to have our database updated.

Happy Birthday!

Cindy Salter	Dec 17
Wendi Patterson	Dec 20
Krissa Schaaf	Dec 21
Cindy Thomas	Dec 21
Jesus	Dec. 25
Snowbaby Daws	Dec 26
Mary Anna Johnson	Dec 26
Dick Johnson	Dec 27
Helen Anderson	Dec 28
Stan Grady	Dec 28
Allysen Schaaf	Dec 28
Grey Fulton	Dec 29
Harriett Ray	Dec 31

Happy Anniversary!

Ken & Betsy Garber	Dec 16
Jim & Dorothy Sansing	Dec 20
Groome & Ann Fulton	Dec 21
Kirwin & Thai Khoutsvanh	Dec 28

The Season @ a Glance

12/18 Chili, Soup & Caroling @ 5:00 p.m. - After Party at the Home of Pat & Randy Simmons
12/24 Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols @ 5:30 p.m.
12/25 Mobile Meals @ 9:00 a.m. (note earlier time)
12/25 Christmas Service - Worship
1/5 Community Clinic Light Meal @ 5:00 p.m.
1/8 Fellowship Lunch following Worship; Entertainment - The Children & Youth Christmas Program
"Matt & Lucy's Version Birth"
1/13 Mobile Meals @ 9:30 a.m.
2/5 Souper Bowl of Caring
2/9 Women's Dinner Date @ 6:30 p.m.
2/10 Mobile Meals @ 9:30 a.m.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 15th following the service of worship, for the purpose of acting on the recommendation of Session to the Pastor's Terms of Call.

Caring Services House Dedication

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 4th @ 12:30 for a blessing and dedication ceremony of 824 W. Lexington. There are still a few items needed for the ladies to feel at home: 6 sets of twin size white sheets, additional bath towels, a tall, white kitchen trashcan, 2 chairmats with lips (the kind that go under chairs at desks). If you have any questions, please call Linda Sasser 336-885-9419 or contact the church office.

Caring Services Needs

The Caring Services organization needs help stocking their clothing bank - take a moment to see if you have any items that were not donated to the yard sale that you'd be willing to donate to CSI. They need coats, sweaters, men's jeans, warm winter shoes. You may bring your donations to the church. Thank you for helping make this winter a little warmer!

Chili, Soup & Caroling

Make plans to join us Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for some delicious soup and chili then we'll hit the streets to spread the Christmas spirit to folks in our church family. Join us for this great night of merriment!

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols is one of the most special and beloved services of the year. Always one of the most highly attended services, you'll want to be here early to get a good seat! The service begins at 5:30 p.m., early enough to have you home in time for your own family activities.

Staff Christmas Gift

As in the past, everyone who would like to make a donation towards the staff Christmas gifts please put it in an envelope marked "Staff Gift" and put it in the offering plate or give it to Tom Schaaf. It's an opportunity for us at Forest Hills to say a special thank you to Joe, Beth, Stan, Kim and Gina for the wonderful spiritual leadership we enjoy. Sincerely, *Tom Schaaf*, Moderator of Personnel Committee

Summer 2012 Mission Trip

A week of urban ministry and education...YES! Sunday, July 1 - Saturday, July 7, 2012. Heads up Youth, we need to know by January 15th so we can open it to college/adults. \$50 holds your spot!

We are coordinating our trip with The Pilgrimage, an organization based in the D.C. area. The Pilgrimage's mission is to help young people connect their faith with social awareness and action. Through a pedagogy based on service, interactive programs and reflection, they seek to embolden and empower young people toward lives that strive for a more equitable and just world. Their vision is to build communities where people are invested in eradicating hunger, homelessness, and poverty with a deep understanding of the myths, stereotypes, and systemic structures that create these inequalities.

We hope to come back with the spirit of the Living God, the spirit of service and empowerment that will ignite our FHPC congregation. If you would like additional information about the trip, contact Beth on Facebook or at foresthillsdce@northstate.net. You can get additional information about The Pilgrimage organization at their website: www.thepilgrimage.org. Pray about this exciting mission opportunity!

Contributions Deadline for 2011

We want to be sure that everyone is aware of the timeframe for remittance of contributions for tax purposes. The deadline for 2011 giving is **10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 26th**. The church office is technically closed that day but Kim will be in the office for a limited amount of time. We thank you for your cooperation and deeply appreciate your generous gifts to the church. God bless!

January Fellowship Lunch

On Sunday, January 8th following the service of Worship, the first 2012 Fellowship Lunch will take place in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Committee will provide ham and baked chicken, rolls. They would like to make things interesting: if your last name begins with letters A-H bring a SALAD; I-P bring a side dish, Q-Z bring a dessert. The dish should serve 8-10. There will be a small fee (\$2.00) to pay for the meat. The entertainment will be the Children & Youth Christmas program. See below...

Matt & Lucy's Version Birth

The children & youth will be performing "Matt & Lucy's Version Birth" on Sunday, January 8th as the entertainment for the Fellowship Lunch after Worship. Enjoy a whimsical exploration of the two gospel Christmas stories. Special cameo appearances by beloved FHPC members. Bring a friend!

New Sunday School Opportunity

Before you get too excited, there are certain exclusion criteria: If you are potty trained, STOP READING NOW. We are starting a new Early Christian Awareness program for our youngest members. Designed for children 6 months to 3 years, the Early Christian Awareness program takes advantage of the fact that a tiny child is THE MOST INTELLECTUALLY ALERT OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS to teach them about God, Jesus, the Church and the importance of each one of them as a child of God.

The program uses tools that stimulate all of the child's senses to achieve the following goals:

1. To provide a relaxed, happy Christian environment: this includes teacher's attitude and a comfortable, stimulating space.
2. To enable the child to experience faith through the caring, loving and nurturing of the entire team.
3. To communicate that God loves him and is the Creator of him and the world.
4. To help the child know that he is a special person and is an important part of this church.
5. To enable the child to learn through perceptual means using all senses.
6. To begin the process of self-discipline, patience and the pleasure of sharing.
7. To have parents involved enriching their parenting skills being involved with their child's spiritual growth and their own personal spiritual development, believing that growth in grace of parent and young child are inseparable.

The class will begin the first Sunday in January, so bring your little ones ready to have fun! Hannah Utley and Gay Wyche will be teaching this class in Room 7 of the Education Wing.

Poinsettias this Advent Season

Given By

Bill & Sissie Burgess
David & Brenda Drewry
Rudy & Vivian Frazier
Groome & Ann Fulton
Nancy Kiers
Bettie Massey
Cora Massey
Richard & Juanita McPherson
Chuck Ritchie
Lynn & Karen Roach
Jim & Dorothy Sansing
John & Nancy Schrull
Bob & Betty Smith
Venda Whitney
Nancy Williams-Berry
Gay Wyche

Designation

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Krueger and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burgess
In Memory of Walter & Ruby Wofford and Carol Drewry
In Honor of Our Children and Grandchildren
In Memory of J. Bryan Fulton
In Memory of John Kiers, Jr.
In Memory of Doug and John Massey
In Memory of the Rev. Robert A. Massey and Mrs. Emma L. Morton
In Memory of their son, William David McPherson
In Memory of Gene & Leona Ritchie and Tully Ritchie
In Memory of Marie Roach and Mary Wingert
In Honor of the Upcoming Marriage of Aubrey Sansing and Walter Kelm
In Memory of Esther Wieboldt and Susan Griffies
In Honor of the Choir
In Honor of the Forest Hills Session
In Memory of Emily Pickens, Bob & Jean Cole
In memory of Donna Scoppa



To Members and Friends of Forest Hills,
This is the season for the pure in heart;
This is the time for mercy;

This is the season for peacemakers;
This is the time for the bearers of glad tidings;
This is the fullness of time we have waited for.

May joy, kindness, peace, and hope be yours
in this, Christ's season.

Christmas blessings to you and your family
from your Forest Hills Church Staff,

Stan Grady

Beth Utey

Deborah

*Christmas
Blessings,
Kim Schweig*





Don't forget:
*PLEASE NOTE - Donations must
be RECEIVED IN the church
office no later than MONDAY,
DECEMBER 26TH at 10:00 a.m. in
order to count towards your
2011 giving for tax purposes.
Thank you for your cooperation.*

Elders & Committee Assignments

Joe Abernethy, Class of 2012
Moderator: Long Range Planning Cmte
Mbr: Property Cmte

Stan Bittner, Class of 2012
Moderator: Missions Cmte
Mbr: Endowment & Personnel Cmtes

Sissie Burgess, Class of 2012
Moderator: Pastoral Care
Mbr: Property & Memorials Cmtes

David Drewry, Class of 2012
Moderator: Property Cmte
Mbr: Youth Connection & Long Range
Planning Cmtes

Linda Sasser, Class of 2012
Mbr: Pastoral Care & Missions Cmtes

Randy Simmons, Class of 2012
Moderator: Memorials Cmte
Mbr: Missions & Property Cmtes

Candace Gatewood, Class of 2013
Co-Moderator: Worship Cmte
Mbr: Evangelism & Youth Connection Cmtes

Rob Gross, Class of 2013
Moderator: Stewardship Cmte
Mbr: Memorials Cmtes

Sheila McKenna, Class of 2013
Moderator: Nominating Cmte
Mbr: Personnel & Worship Cmtes

Tom Schaaf, Class of 2013
Moderator: Personnel Cmte
Mbr: Evangelism Cmte

Hannah Utley, Class of 2013
Co-Moderator: Worship Cmte
Moderator: Youth Connection Cmte
Mbr: Nominating Cmte

Gay Wyche, Class of 2013
Mod: Christian Education Cmte
Mbr: Missions Cmte

Bill Bencini, Class of 2014
Mbr: Memorials & Personnel Cmtes

Bob Brenner, Class of 2014
Mbr: Fellowship & Property Cmtes

Groome Fulton, Class of 2014
Moderator: Endowment Cmte
Mbr: Stewardship Cmte

Linda Greene, Class of 2014
Moderator: Fellowship Cmte
Mbr: Property Cmte

Missy Hill, Class of 2014
Mbr: Christian Ed & Pastoral Care Cmtes

Cindy Thomas, Class of 2014
Mbr: Long Range Planning & Worship Cmtes

Carolyn Troutman, Youth Elder
Mbr: Missions & Youth Connections Cmtes

The View Publication & Church Information

We welcome your input to this newsletter! If you, your committee or group have information or pictures you'd like published simply email or call the church office prior to the deadlines posted on the church calendar.

We encourage you to keep informed of the activities and events of Forest Hills by going to our online calendar at www.ForestHillsPres.com. We are also on Facebook - simply link from our website!

You are welcome to stop by our office during the week, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. except on Wednesday's we close at Noon. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday's; childcare is always provided. If you are interested in more information about anything you read in this newsletter or about our church in general, please do not hesitate to call us at 336-883-4239 or email info@ForestHillsPres.com. We hope to see you soon!

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