

*The First Presbyterian Church
Ann Arbor, Michigan
December 28, 2008
First Sunday After Christmas*



WELCOME TO ALL, especially visitors and newcomers to Ann Arbor. Let us know of your presence by completing the pew card and introducing yourself at the Welcome Center (through the pulpit door and downstairs). Please know you are invited to share in all activities of the church. Brochures about programs at First Presbyterian Church are located at the Welcome Center and in the narthex.

As we prepare for worship,
please turn off all cell phones and beepers.
Hearing assistive devices, large print bulletins, hymnals and Bibles
are available from the ushers.

**Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation
participates in word or song are noted in bold type.**

* Those who are able, please stand.

*Our mission is to grow spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ through
worship, fellowship, mission, learning, and prayer. We commit
ourselves, in all we say and do, to demonstrate God's grace and love.*

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

*Traditional English Carol
Arr. Robert Elmore*

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

Please sign the Friendship Book in each pew near the center aisle and pass it along your pew or to others sitting nearby. As it returns, note with whom you worship so that you may greet each other after the service.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

People: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Leader: They feast on the abundance of your house,

People: And you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life:

People: In Your light we see light.

***HYMN 41 O Come All Ye Faithful**

Adeste Fideles

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from you. We convince ourselves that we have come as far as we need to go in our faith journey. We stagnate in faith and call it "fine." We forget commitment in the name of busyness. Lord, forgive us. Light the fire inside us. Excite us with the faith. Excite us with Jesus.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE (#572 in the Hymnal) Lord, Have Mercy

*Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us,
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Following the Assurance of Forgiveness, worshipers are invited to turn to their neighbors, offer the right hand of fellowship, and greet them with the words: "The peace of Christ be with you." Worshipers are invited to respond with the words, "And also with you."

***GLORIA**

The musical notation for the Gloria section consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics 'Glo ri - a'. The second staff contains the lyrics 'in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some quarter notes and rests. There are various musical markings such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings throughout the piece.

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12 (N.T., p. 2)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

The children may come to the chancel steps to meet one of the pastors.

***HYMN 66 We Three Kings of Orient Are**

Three Kings of Orient Are

SERMON How Far Will We Walk

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Colossians 1:15-18

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
In Him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All were created through Him.
He is before all else that is.
In Him everything continues in being.
It is He who is head of the body, the church!
He is the beginning and
the firstborn of the dead,
so that He may be first in everything.**

RESPONDING

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION AND PETITION
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

SOLO The Kings

Peter Cornelius

Three kings appear from the East afar, to Jordan led by a guiding star. And in Judea are asking the Three where the newborn King of the earth may be. With gold and myrrh and incense so rare they come to worship the Christ-child there. How brightly shines the star on high, as to the manger the Kings draw nigh. They look with wonder upon the Boy; they bow before Him, so full of joy. With gold and myrrh and incense so rare they kneel and adore the Christ-child there. O child of man, will you also go? And with the Kings may you come to know the star of mercy, of peace, and of love, a guide to the gift from our God above. Though Kings bring gold and incense so rare, give your heart to the Christ-child there.

***DOXOLOGY (#592 in the Hymnal)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

***HYMN 40 Joy to the World!**

Antioch

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: God sends us forth into our everyday world,
and blesses us on our journeys near and far.

**People: We dare to go where we are sent,
knowing that God is with us wherever we go.**

Leader: God seeks to communicate with us,
and comes to us day by day in unexpected ways.

**People: We open ourselves more fully to God's message,
confident that God will lead us, in love.**

Leader: God strengthens us against the powers of death,
and offers, in every moment, the blessing of new life.

**People: We commit ourselves to a new affirmation of life,
trusting in God to grant wisdom and understanding.**

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY In Thee Is Gladness

J. S. Bach

*The Prayer Team is available for those desiring prayer,
in the Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the piano,
immediately following the 9:30 worship service.*

THE PREACHER at the 10:00 a.m. worship service is the Reverend Jim Monnett.

PARTICIPATING in the service is the Reverend Douglas J. Brouwer.

THE SOLOIST is Terence Farmer.

THE ORGANIST is Sarah Albright.

THE READER is Mary McKeever.

THE GREETERS are Bob and Carolyn Harris and Bill McPherson.

THE POINSETTIAS on the chancel are given in honor and in memory of members, friends, and families of First Presbyterian Church.

Today's Events

FAMILY WORSHIP is at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

CHILD CARE: We encourage all children to attend worship today; childcare is provided for the youngest children only. Parents may be asked to present a picture I.D. when they pick up their children.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES do not meet today. Next week at 9:30 a.m. in the French Room/Library, the class "Basic Bible" will continue. At 11:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room, Dr. Waldemar Schmeichel, Professor of Religion at Kalamazoo College, will begin the four-week series, "Absolutes of Christianity"

FIRST COUPLES does not meet today.

FIRST SINGLES meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Curtis Room. Today, members will meet and play games.

PICK UP YOUR 2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES TODAY. They are labeled by name and available on the table outside the Church Office.

RADIO WORSHIP service is at 11:00 a.m. on WAAM (1600 AM), and on WAAM's website, waamannarbor.com.

CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL will not be held tonight.

KEYSTONES, our high school youth group, does not meet today.

Announcements

For a full description of the events listed below, please consult our newsletter, First Press, available in the narthex, at the Welcome Center, and outside the church office, or online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

HELP NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY MEAL AT DELONIS CENTER:

This year, New Year's Eve falls on a Wednesday, traditionally the weekday that First Pres volunteers help prepare and serve meals at the center. As a result, there is a special urgency for Delonis volunteers from First Pres to work on this day. The times of the volunteer shifts are different for this Wednesday; the cooking shift is from noon to 2:30 p.m., and the serving shift is from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. To volunteer, please contact Brady West, our Delonis volunteer coordinator, at 223-9793, or bwest@umich.edu.

PLEDGE STATUS UPDATE: As of December 15, 474 pledges have been received totalling \$1,191,706.

THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED January 1. The building will close at 1:00 p.m. on December 31.

A NEW FORMAT FOR KEYSTONES, our high school youth group, will begin in 2009. On January 4, at 6:00 p.m., in the Youth Room, get together for Club Wreck, and play the best games in town. At 6:45 p.m., we will return to the Youth Room for announcements. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., the evening continues with Go Deeper ... Bible studies, great discussions, new topics, and more, also in the Youth Room. Come for both Club Wreck and Go Deeper, or just do the one that works best for you. Parents, please drop off at 6:00 or 6:45 p.m. for Keystones. Questions? Contact Rev. Jim Monnett at jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org, or 662-4466, ext. 20.

GET READY FOR THE CONFIRMATION RETREAT, January 16-18. Meet at church at 4:00 p.m. to travel to Skyline Camp and Conference Center in Almont, Michigan. Each student needs to prepare by having read the book, *The Case for Christ*. On the retreat, confirmands will struggle with the question "Is Jesus Lord?" and what that means to them. Also, they will enjoy sledding, fun games, and great learning. The group will return to church by noon on Sunday. Cost is \$90 per person. Sign up by January 4.

SNEAKERS ON A MISSION: The Philippines Task Force (PTF) is sponsoring a shoe drive through the month of January. Please donate your sneakers up to size 10, as well as women's and children's regular shoes, up to size 7. Donated shoes will be cleaned, boxed up, and mailed to the Dumagete Community Center in the Philippines. The shoes will then be sold by the center at a very low price as an incentive to families that are up-to-date with their house payments. This is the fifth year PTF has done this project and the shoes are very much sought after.

Interested in helping? Please consider joining PTF the second Sunday of each month at noon in the French Room/Library. For more information, contact Chris Larson, larson.christine@sbcglobal.net, or 769-9587.

INTERESTED IN JOINING FIRST PRES? Just curious about Presbyterian beliefs and worship? Join us on Sundays, January 11, 18, 25, and February 1 for the latest series of new member/inquirer classes. Those who wish to join the church may do so at the 9:30 a.m. worship service

on February 8 (we treat you to breakfast before the service). If you are interested in participating, contact Rev. Budge Gere at 662-4466, ext. 53, or bgere@firstpresbyterian.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES:

The Stephen Ministry would like to invite the congregation to a series of continuing education classes, from 7:10 to 7:45 p.m., in the Youth Room. The session topics and dates are:

January 12: "Eating Disorders," presented by Rev. Jana Reister

January 26: "Dementia and Alzheimer's," presented by a speaker from the Redford Center

February 9: "Facing Death: Providing Physical and Emotional Comfort to Loved Ones," the presentation of a video from Stephen Ministries, St. Louis.

PRAYING THE PSALMS, our weekly prayer group, meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. Pew cards with prayer requests may be completed and put in the offering plate. For information, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 662-4466, ext. 12, or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

CAMPUS MINISTRY MID-WEEK WORSHIP is on hiatus until Tuesday, January 13, due to winter break. Questions? Contact Rev. Julie Marks at jmarks@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 14.



Calendar for December 29 - January 3

MONDAY:

Body and Soul, 9:00 a.m., Curtis Room
Liturgical Dance Rehearsal, noon, Monteith Hall
Boy Scout Troop 7, 7:30 p.m., Monteith Hall
Sanctus and Gloria Ringers, 7:30 p.m., Room 403

TUESDAY:

Elaine Olson Memorial Service, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
ESL, 4:00 p.m., 100 Level Classrooms

WEDNESDAY: New Year's Eve

PW Coordinating Team, 9:30 a.m., Vance Room

Building closes at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Meal, noon-2:30 p.m. (volunteers),
2:30-5:30 p.m. (serving), 5:30 p.m. (meal), Delonis Center

THURSDAY: New Year's Day

Building Closed

FRIDAY:

Prayer/Study Group, 9:00 a.m., away



*A Stephen Ministry
Congregation*