

the Messenger

of Hilton Presbyterian Church (USA)

December 2, 2009

Upcoming Events	2
Announcements	3
Remember in Your Prayers	4
December Birthdays	4
December Calendar	6
Activities Schedule	7
Laity Assistant Schedule	8

Worship

Lectionary Readings

December 6

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 13

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

According to the 1998 *Guinness Book of World Records*, “Happy Birthday to You” is the most recognized song in the English language. The song’s lyrics have been translated into at least 18 languages. Oddly enough, it’s been around for only about a hundred years and the tune was composed by two sisters who were kindergarten school teachers in Louisville, Kentucky. Originally written as “Good Morning to All” for greeting young children, the melody was quickly used with the birthday celebration lyrics.

We celebrate a person’s birthday to symbolize the importance of that person’s existence. In our culture, we sometimes have parties, take a person out for dinner, bake or purchase a cake—usually with lighted candles on top. Gifts are sometimes given. But, the height of the celebration seems to be the singing of the song whether for a child’s first birthday or an adult’s 100th, whether sung in person or over a phone.

That is the reason we celebrate Christmas—to symbolize the importance of Jesus’ existence. We all know that no one knows the exact date of Jesus’ birth. Two of the most important contributions to the New Testament, the writings of Paul and the Gospel of John, provide no details at all of Jesus’ birth, and no date of Jesus’ birth is mentioned anywhere in the New Testament. The date of December 25 was first noted as a celebration date in the mid-fourth century. But, whether it was tied to the spring equinox as a conception date or the birth event just after the winter’s solstice is uncertain. It really doesn’t matter, does it? We celebrate the birth because of the Light that Jesus’ life brought into this world.

Advent and Christmas are two separate, closely connected seasons in the Christian calendar, though in our culture they get mixed and confused with each other. Christmas is the season many in our culture celebrate...whether directly related to the celebration of Jesus’ life or otherwise. However, the traditions and celebrations associated with the Christmas season all stand as a great tribute to the life and presence of this One who means so much to us. The greenery, denoting life. Candles, signifying presence, warmth, and enlightenment. Gift-giving symbolizing a tradition of honor and appreciation. Parties and feasts, expressing joy and delight. Traditionally, Hilton PC has chosen the week of Christmas to host PORT, opening our “church home” to upwards of a hundred homeless people as a place of shelter in the fellowship hall with a meal served each evening and breakfast served each morning. As many other churches help host such a week during the winter months, for us it is one more symbol of the celebration of Jesus’ life—to celebrate by serving others, with many volunteers needed.

This Sunday’s worship is a service of music and “Hanging of the Greens” in the sanctuary, presented by our music program. Several classes are having Christmas gatherings in December. On Sunday, December 20, Jennifer and I invite you, and any family or friends visiting you, to our Christmas Open House from 2pm–4pm.



Rev. Dr. Gary Bagley

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

upcoming events

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 5, 6-9 p.m.

The Preschool is hosting a Pajama Party for kids ages 2-10 on Friday, December 5 from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy a date night or evening of holiday shopping while your kids enjoy activities, art and snacks in their PJs. Donations will be gratefully accepted to benefit their new scholarship fund. RSVP by December 1 to (757) 596-1939 or preschool@hiltonpres.org with this information: *Child's name and age, Parents' names, Contact phone, Food allergies or other concerns.*

In the Swing

with the

KEENAGERS

Who: Anyone over 55

When: December 3, 11:30 am

Where: Smithfield Inn

112 Main Street, Smithfield

Cost for lunch is \$11, tax and gratuity not included. For more information or to reserve your place, please call Nola Atkins at (757) 838-0352.

PW December Circles

(locations and times)

Circle 1: Judy Knight
December 10, 7:00 pm

Circle 2: Not meeting

Circle 3: Not meeting

Gary & Jennifer Bagley invite you to an

Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 20, 2-4 pm
71 Settlers Road, (757) 599-1469



Please join us and bring your favorite holiday snack to share. If you need transportation to the Bagley's, please contact the church office at (757) 595-1313.

Directions from HPC:

Left, Warwick Blvd, 3.2 mi

Left, Hiden Blvd., .9 mi

Bear **Left,** Blount Point, 0.3 mi

Left, James Landing Road, 0.3 mi

Left, Settler's Road, 0.2 mi

71, on right

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.

REHEARSAL TONIGHT 6:30 p.m. for ALL YOUTH

On this day, our worship service will be about celebrating and explaining the history and traditions of the Christmas and Advent seasons. This will be a multi-faceted program involving the entire music program and our Youth that attend Wednesday night live. Our sanctuary will come to life with greens and poinsettias and chrismons upon the tree. With handbell music and carolers and favorite songs of the season sung by choirs and congregation. Come be a part of the celebration during our 10:30 a.m. worship on December 6.

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating Christmas and our 90th anniversary. Chef Bryan McGinnis will prepare baked ham, roasted turkey, savory dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn pudding and rolls. Bring a favorite holiday side dish to share. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Please call the church office if you haven't signed up already, to include your name on the list and help the kitchen staff prepare for this special meal. They may also be purchased at the door. The cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child or \$15 per family of 4 or more.

announcements

CHURCH BASKETBALL LEAGUE signups have begun for those between the ages of 8 and 17. Games will begin in January. For more information contact Beth Rivenbark. Sign up now in the Narthex.

ALTERNATE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES are still available. Place your check in the offering plate and designate it for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, PORT, Habitat for Humanity, Church World Service, or water tanks for Chiapas. There are catalogs and brochures in the Narthex as well as gift cards to give to those in whose honor you give.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! and Adult Study will take a holiday break beginning December 9 and will resume January 13.

HANDBELL CHOIR OPENING immediately. If you read music or are willing to learn to read music and want to be a

part of this amazing group of people, please contact Lois Reese. We rehearse on Thursdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

2010 FLOWER CHART is now available for dedications. It is located on the bulletin board in front of the church office.

THE PORT HOMELESS SHELTER opened for the season at Parkview United Methodist Church on November 4. Please pray for the volunteers and guests. Our church will host the shelter December 23 - 30. Sign-ups for volunteering and cooking will begin at the Advent Workshop! Please begin to think/pray about how you may be involved in this vital ministry.

DESSERTS NEEDED for our Wednesday Night *Live!* program starting back in January. Our kids sure do enjoy those homemade goodies! A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex.

SESSION highlights

At the Stated Meeting of the Session of Hilton Presbyterian Church on November 16, 2009, Session:

- continued to discuss and reflect upon *Christianity for the Rest of Us* with a focus on chapter 9.
- approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting October 5, 2009 and the Called Meetings on October 18 and October 27, 2009.
- entered the following deaths into the official church record:
 1. Harriet MacNeil on October 13, 2009
 2. Jim Day on October 22, 2009
 3. Shirley Cummings on November 11, 2009
 4. Charles Meissner on November 14, 2009

2009 Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 20



A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

Distribution of the offering

Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the [Board of Pensions](#) for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports [Presbyterian-related ethnic racial education](#) through the National Ministries Division of the General Assembly Council.

remember in your prayers

Family, Friends and those Recovering will be kept on our pastoral care list for one month unless an extension of time is requested. Please notify the church office of any changes.

- Bayside Convalescent Center: Mildred Mathis
Beth Shalom Rehabilitation (Richmond): Barbara Smith
The Chesapeake: Gertrude Kinney
Colonial Harbor: Lauren Bursch
Fairmont Crossing: Alice Wertheimer
The Hidenwood: Pearl Hawk, Dorothy Hogue
Mennowood: Allene Kidd, Arno Pauley
Morningside: Ellie Argo
NN Nursing and Rehabilitation: Angie Hodge
Regency Heath Care Center: Edra Mayer
St. Mary's Children's Home: Katie Jones

Upcoming Surgery:
 Johnnie Chai, December 3

At Home/Recovering/In Treatment: Margaret Lassiter, Doug Chapman, Sue Hogue, Cindy Baker, Bill Sharp, Janette Cook, John Honeycutt, Allene Kidd, Janie Hurt, Sadie Hubbard, Riki Murphy, Ruby Rankin, Claire Hubbard, Diane Davis

Family: Ina Hennessey (Nola Atkins' sister), Paul Barber (George Barber's brother), Edward Saunders (Lucille Saunders' son)

Friends: Robert Weisinger (the Brown family), The Gornik family (the Caccavale family), The Woolitz family (the Minium/Moonis family)

Our Sister Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Brikin Church, Kinshasa

Our Missionaries: Tom & Nancy Rach in Mexico

Military: Robbie Casper* (Chris Cann), Joey Doherty (Jessica Perry Doherty), Mike Roane (Lynne Peterson), Ron Wagner, Jr. (Kate Perry Wagner), Jason Wood*
 *Deployed

Everyone is encouraged to write to our deployed troops. Their addresses are below:

Cpt. Jason Wood
 89th Transportation Co.
 553rd CSSB
 APO, AE 09344

Choirs Leading in Worship

12/6	All
12/13	Adult Choir/Ensemble
12/20	Adult Choir/Ensemble
12/24	Adult Choir

Stewardship Statistics

2009 Annual Budget	\$380,527
YTD Requirements	\$351,255
YTD Receipts	\$298,474
YTD Expenses	\$323,402
Net Income	(\$24,928)
Nov. 29, 2009 Receipts	\$3,773

DECEMBER birthdays

- 1
- 2 Elizabeth Knipp, Angie Hodge, Chuck Webb
- 3 Kurt Hellauer, Jenny Jones
- 4 Michelle DiPasquale, John Hubbard, Carter Moonis
- 5 Sarah Morgan
- 6
- 7 Renee Blankenship
- 8 Patrick Hunt, Arno Pauley
- 9 Matt Richman, Britt Wolven
- 10
- 11 John Greenlee
- 12 Diane Davis, Sam Endicott
- 13 Brittany Brown, Paul Clear, Susan Hubbard, Emma Jones, Hank Stockard
- 14 Larry Knight
- 15
- 16
- 17 Diane Clear, Charles DiPasquale, Kevin Sanborn
- 18 Allison (Byrd) von Rautenrantz
- 19 Gloria Coker
- 20
- 21
- 22 Dawn Palumbo
- 23 Randy Jordan
- 24 Martha Hunt, Janie Hurt
- 25
- 26 Ellen Goodson, Helen Moonis
- 27 Sarah McGinnis, Kaitlin McHale, JoAnn Morgan
- 28 Tracy Crooks, Debbie West
- 29 Bryan Banning, Chelsie Williams
- 30
- 31 Ellen Hess

If your name is not listed, please contact the church office so we can celebrate your birthday too!

Blood Drive Update

24 Viable Units Collected at Recent Blood Drive

Huge thanks to the folks who offered blood and/or their time to make the November Hilton Area Churches Blood Drive held here at HPC a success! Thirty folks came out to donate blood.

A new system of managing the donation process, which is VERY efficient, is now in place. From entering the building until leaving the canteen after **donating now takes an hour or less!** Several of our regular, faithful donors have had to stop donating due to health concerns, which cannot be helped. If you have donated in the past and have dropped out due to the inefficiency of the past, be alerted that the system is working. A supervisor from the Red Cross attends each and every blood drive to keep things on track. Give it another try, please!

Thanks so much to the following HPC members and friends of the church who came out to donate the gift of life on November 17: **Gary Bagley, Doug Baker, Debbie Barber, Patti Caccavale, Kathryn Dabbs** (who donated in the past three blood drives without any recognition whatsoever. Sorry, Kathryn!), **Eleanor Day, Nelson Farley, Pax Goodson, Sam Heatwole, John Hubbard, Wilbert Massenburg, Sarah McGinnis, Robert MacLachlan, Chuck Paul, Sandy Sherrill, and Doris Slagle.** Well done, folks! We represented more than 50% of the total number of donors.

The blood drive could not have happened without the help of the following folks who provided their time, care-giving spirit, and charisma to help run the event: Clara Banks, Jackie Connor, David Fletcher, Debby Heatwole, Claire Hubbard, Ann Hurt (who provided the hit snack of the day—Spinach dip and tortilla chips!), and Charlie Slagle.

The next Blood Drive will be held on Monday, January 18 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's School is closed that day, so parking should be available. Thank you so much for your support.

Wanda Fletcher, Hilton Area Blood Drive Coordinator



*The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™*



Staff photos



Wednesday Night Menu

December 2

Hot dogs & Burgers · Tater tots · Cole slaw
Homemade dessert · Lemonade/Coffee/Water

December 9

Baked ham · Roasted turkey · Savory dressing
Potatoes & gravy · Corn pudding · Lemonade/Tea/Coffee/Water
Everyone is asked to bring a side dish

Adults \$5 / Children \$3 / Family maximum \$15

FALL ACTIVITIES AT HILTON PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday Morning

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

New Members/Inquirer's Class for Adults TBA

RSVP to the church office

Children/Youth

Our children's classes are using the *Faith Weaver* materials this year.

Crib - 4 Years Old

Room 104

5 Years Old - 2nd Grade

Room 203

3rd - 5th Grade

Room 204

6th - 8th Grade

Room 202

9th - 12th Grade

Youth Room, lower level

Adults

Berean Bible Class

Room 102

Following the tradition of this class, the focus of study will be on specific biblical themes. Led by Sam Endicott.

Discussion Class

Fellowship Hall

A lively group who enjoy reading and discussing books on today's Christianity and related subjects. *Secrets in the Dark* by Frederick Buechner is composed of 37 sermons. Each class stands alone. Led by Fred Caccavale, Margaret Lassiter, Jay Taylor.

Faithlink Class

Room 208

This class provides a Christian perspective on contemporary issues using Scripture, Christian tradition and open thinking to guide the discussion. Led by Jennifer Bagley, Rick Kerns, Michael Mulkey, Drew Velkey and Karen Velkey.

Men's Bible Class

Library Classroom

This class uses the Standard Bible Series for study, questions and discussion. Led by Charlie Slagle.

Wednesday Night *Live!*

Please join us each Wednesday night for dinner at 6 p.m., with music and Christian education classes following. All WNL participants will be given the opportunity to be good stewards of their time and talents by being leaders in worship through song, movement, reading, drama, instruments or whatever creative ideas they come up with.

Children (Grades 1-5)

6:30-7 pm/Junior Jam

7-7:30 pm/Class

Youth (Grades 6-12)

5:30-6 pm/Youth Jam

6:30-7:30 pm/Class

Adults

6:30-7:30 pm

Coffee & Conversation
Book Study, *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Choirs

Youth Jam

Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Grades 6-12

Teamwork is what it is all about here. We learn to sing music in three and four parts and play drums with as many as seven parts at a time. This takes great focus and discipline.

Junior Jam

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Grades 1-5

In Junior Jam, young people learn about worship and prepare to lead in the Sunday morning service of worship. We will explore new ways to share our talents in addition to singing, by using instruments and movement.

Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

The Adult Choir is responsible for leading our congregation in song as well as singing responses and anthems. We sing everything from Bach to Bernstein and Mendelssohn to Ray. We do two major musical works a year, at Christmas and in the spring.

Ensemble

Alternate Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

These are the leaders of our contemporary music. We have 4-5 singers and a group of instrumentalists including congas, guitars and bass.

Hilton Ringers

Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

6th grade and up

This is an intergenerational handbell choir for youth and adults. A basic knowledge of reading music notation is helpful to join this group. This choir adds to the worship experience through playing anthems, accompanying other choirs and hymns, and doing processions.

Beginning Handbells

Sundays, 11:45-12:15

4th grade and up

This is the group if you want to learn basic music reading and ringing. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary. All that is needed is the daring to try something new and the willingness to have a little fun along the way.



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The Messenger Staff

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Laity Assistant Schedule

If you are unable to be at church on a Sunday you're scheduled to serve, please arrange for a substitute, and if time allows, contact the church office.

	Week of December 6	Week of December 13
Building Security	Greg Raines	Francie Pearce
Greeters	Paul & Diane Clear	C.D. & Kathy Young
Ushers	Rick Kerns, Glenda Miller, Al Pearce, Doug Wolff	Rick Kerns, Glenda Miller, Al Pearce, Doug Wolff
Counters	Priscilla Bele, Leslie Leser, Susie Banning	Chuck & Kathy Webb, Amie Hellauer
Nursery	Diane & Keenan Clear	Amie Hellauer, Audrey Sulzberger
Processional Leaders	Mary Hellauer, Ty Hubbard, Hannah Moonis, Samantha Signorelli, Alex Trimble	Chelsea Gray, Sarah Leser, Audrey Schlickemeyer, Audrey Sulzberger, Jack Weeks
Moments for Children	Karen Velkey	Renee DiPasquale
Multimedia prep/op	Patti Grayson, Winston Davis, Andy & Megan Grayson	Patti Grayson, Winston Davis, Andy & Megan Grayson
Lay Reader	Kathryn Dabbs	Drew Velkey
Flower Delivery	Debbie Barber, Doug Baker, Jane Day	Debbie Barber, Doug Baker, Jane Day
Sunday Coffee	Charles Slagle	Charles Slagle
Giving Flowers	Al & Judi Riutort	HPC Congregation
WNLive! Meal	Christmas Dinner	No WNLive!
WNLive! Desserts	NA	NA

The Messenger is published every other Wednesday unless noted. The deadline for the next issue is noon on **Monday, December 14**. To submit news, leave items in the office mailbox marked *office manager*, call Sarah in the office at (757) 595-1313 or email her at SMcGinnis@HiltonPres.org. You can receive *The Messenger* the same day of publication and in color, emailed straight to your computer. Contact Sarah now!