

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church

Mint Hill, North Carolina

Volume LVI, No. 11, December 2009 - January 2010

www.philadelphiachurch.org



Dear Friends,

It has been so exciting in recent weeks to see the Lual's house rise out of the ground. From a bare patch of dirt to a safe, decent home—it's been a joy to watch. One of the greatest benefits of working on the house is to see the many people, who have all skill levels, working side by side. A couple of Saturdays ago, Dale Mayberry and I sat on the roof of the house putting on shingles, and even over the sound of pounding hammers had an opportunity to talk and get to know one another better. Working together on a project like this offers the kind of benefits that you don't get in the usual round of activities. Because so many volunteers have gotten involved, we have been able to accomplish the assigned task for each week...and even get a little ahead of schedule. Thank you to all who provide food, who offer moral support, who hammer and saw and climb ladders and whatever else is needed. It's been a genuine group effort.

A word about Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is a ministry that provides safe, decent, affordable housing to individuals living in sub-standard housing. Habitat is NOT a giveaway. Families who qualify for a Habitat house must be able to pay a modest monthly mortgage payment. In addition families are required to contribute 400 hours of "sweat equity". As a part of his sweat equity, Moses Lual has been working alongside the volunteers from PPC.

The challenge that still stands before us is raising the funds. The cost of building a Habitat house is \$65,000, which can come in money contributions or "in kind" contributions. We have a floor plan of the house on which we are marking our fund-raising progress. We are more than 1/3 of the way to our goal, but we still need more help. Can you make a contribution? Why not consider giving as a Christmas gift a window (\$??) or a door (\$??) or landscaping (\$??)?

In this season of the year when we give thanks for the many gifts God in Christ has given to us, we can respond by sharing God's love with others.



Sunday, December 6 - Children's Christmas Pageant in the Kerr Building at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 13 - Special service of Christmas music by our choirs during the 10:50 service. There will be only one service that day.

Wednesday, December 16 - Longest Night Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, focusing on hope in the midst of difficult times. Everyone in our church and in the community is invited.

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. for families with children. Bring them to the Sanctuary; there will not be childcare available.

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary at 11:00 p.m., including special music and Holy Communion and, weather permitting, the singing of "Silent Night" outside by candlelight.

From Lee Koontz, Associate Pastor: The Longest Night

I get excited about this time of year. With A.J.'s birthday on Nov. 30th, my and Heather's wedding anniversary on Dec. 1, and then of course Christmas and New Year's Eve, this time of year is a lot of fun. With Christmas parties, workshops, and special services, it's usually a really fun time at the church too!

I say 'usually' because sometimes the holidays are a particularly difficult time to get through. It may be because of the death of a loved one, or a personal crisis or difficult circumstance in your life, but we all have known holidays that aren't so festive. On Wednesday, December 16, you are invited to join us in the Chapel at 7:30 p.m. for *The Longest Night Christmas Service*, sponsored by the Philadelphia Stephen Ministers. Our service that evening will focus on hope in the midst of difficult times, and will be particularly meaningful for anyone who knows first hand that sometimes the holiday season can be hard, especially when you're dealing with a personal crisis or loss of a loved one. Everyone in our church and our community is invited, so please spread the word about this special worship service!

And speaking of long nights, I generally have trouble adjusting to the shortened days this time of the year. I like sunlight, and when it gets dark in the afternoon it's hard to handle sometimes. Darkness is a central theme of this season, as it serves for the context in which Jesus, our Savior, was born.

We can all take heart and have hope that Jesus was born in such dark times. It is during our own dark and difficult times that our Savior's light shines the brightest. This is the hopeful message of Christmas, and we are told by the prophet Isaiah:

"Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined. For a child has been born to us, a son given to us... And he shall be called wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

May God bless you with peace this holiday season!

PPC will host *Finding New Pathways*

It's time to focus on being a healthier church! On Saturday, January 9, 2010, the Presbytery of Charlotte will be presenting *Finding New Pathways* here at PPC. Join the spirit of expectation and hope spreading throughout our Presbytery by attending this church transformation event. Globally known author and expert in growing congregations, **Dr. Tom Bandy**, will inspire us and help us move forward in our efforts to be a vibrant church for this time. Elders, deacons, staff, and ministers will be immersed in the Presbytery of Charlotte's *Eight Characteristics of a Healthy Church*. Through teaching, table discussion, and workshops, each will walk away inspired, encouraged and informed about their next steps toward being stronger leaders for a healthier congregation. Registration is limited. **You must pre-register and pre-pay by Monday, January 4, 2010.** We will also need volunteers to help host this event. Brochures will be available outside of the church office, or for more information contact Sonia Lee at 545-6172.

Endowment Council News

Each month you have seen an article in the *Philagram* regarding the Birthday Endowment. This Endowment was established in September 2007 so members could honor someone on their birthday with a gift to this Endowment with the goal of building up the Birthday Endowment Fund to be used for Building and Grounds projects. The Fund was established by five families making initial contributions: Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ellington, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Funderburk, Mr. and Mrs. George Lamb and Mrs. Wyonia Poulas. Since that time, many PPC members have been honored with donations to this Fund. Donations in 2009 have been slow and we hope that you will continue to keep this avenue of honoring a loved one and at the same time helping in another way of expressing Christian stewardship.

Several months ago a brochure was distributed at church listing all of the Endowments we currently have. There will be some extra copies available at the office if you did not get one. 2009 has been a slow year for many of us due to the country's economy but if you are looking for ways to send a memorial or an honorarium, we urge you to consider using one of the Endowments. During 2009, earnings from these Endowments have helped to make repairs to the pipe organ (Bettie McEwen Pipe Organ Endowment), \$8,158 from various endowments to the Love Thy Neighbor Fund and over \$2,000 from the Sloan Endowment which goes to help needy Mint Hill citizens. In addition, there are several endowments that provide funds for repairs around the church. There are several scholarship endowments such as the Elizabeth Caldwell Junker Scholarship, the James Lee Miller, Jr. Scholarship Fund and the Frances McEwen Hunter Scholarship and these endowments have provided scholarships for many of our church youth as well as other youth in the area schools. Money from the Charles Everett Mullis, Jr. endowment provides scholarships for the youth of our church to attend retreats, conferences, and other church related events. There is an endowment for our kindergarten program, the Dot Bartlett Weekday Kindergarten Endowment Fund and for the nursery, the Patsy Long Nursery Endowment Fund.

These are just a few of the endowments that have been established at our church. Establishing an endowment in honor of a loved one is easy to do and the Endowment Council will gladly work with anyone desiring to do that. There will be a report in the annual report of the Endowments and we urge all of our church members to review those and consider making contributions to one that is special to you this year and in the future.

Philadelphia Class will sponsor Christmas tree sale

Trees will be high quality, hand-selected #1 Fraser Firs, cut fresh and wrapped in netting for easy handling and/or the trunk may be drilled. You may choose your own tree this year at Furches/Lee Farms Tree Lot, 4409 Lebanon Road near Highway 51, beginning Thanksgiving Day, or we will choose it for you and deliver it for a \$5 fee. All proceeds will go to church related projects.

Order forms will be on the tables in the narthex. Cash/check must be enclosed with order form. Checks should be made payable to Philadelphia Class Christmas Tree Fund. If you have questions, call Mickey Ellington at 704-545-4421 or Bob Funderburk at 704-545-6867.

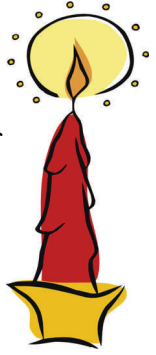
Proceeds from the sale will go toward repair and painting of the Sanctuary steeple. The Philadelphia Class will welcome and appreciate any additional donations for this cause.

Thank You from the Philadelphia Class

The members of the Philadelphia Class wish to thank all who supported our 10th annual Poor Man's Supper on November 14. It was a great success and we hope everyone in attendance enjoyed the meal and entertainment. We greatly appreciate your support and contributions. All proceeds will go towards the painting and restoration of the Church's Steeple. (Additional contributions welcome!)

Let your light shine!

For several years the Chapel Choir has placed luminaries around the circle for everyone to enjoy on Christmas Eve. The Session approved a "Let your light shine" program where you can sponsor a luminary in honor of memory of a special loved one for \$5.00 each. Their name will not appear on the actual luminary but will be listed on a bulletin insert at all Christmas Eve services. **The Chapel Choir will donate all money collected to the Habitat House.** This is your opportunity to support the Chapel Choir, remember a special loved one and "let your light shine" this Christmas season. Order forms are available on the tables in the narthex of the Chapel and Sanctuary.



PPC Birthday Endowment Fund

Celebrate your big day by sharing your blessings. Or remember anyone you love by giving a gift to the PPC Birthday Endowment Fund. Each donor and honoree will be acknowledged in the *Philagram*. By growing this fund, our church will be able to use the interest for much needed improvements and repairs to the buildings and grounds of our campus. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex of the sanctuary and chapel and outside the church office.

The following donations have been made to the Birthday Endowment Fund:

In Honor of:

Terri Reed—From Morris & Sadie Hood
Doug Duncan—From Kathy Duncan Ney Freeman
Tom Flowe—From Ernest & Linda Jamison
Richard Newton—From Lisa, Augusta & Katie Newton
Carl M Ellington, III—From Papa & Nana Ellington
Sophie Metz—From Linda Metz

In Memory of:

Alex Davidson—From Norma Davidson

If you made a donation to the Birthday Endowment and it is not listed, please contact the church office.

Celebrating an anniversary in December . . .

- 1 Jim & Martha Griffin
- 1 Lee & Heather Koontz
- 3 Bill & Anne Cloaninger
- 5 Barry & Sandra Ferguson
- 11 Don & Becky Jamison
- 12 Buddy & Sherry Knotts
- 15 Mark & Ginny Setzer
- 19 Dan & Becky Oke
- 20 John & Vivian Barclay
- 20 James & Jill Sharrett
- 20 David & Monique Andrews
- 21 Jack & Mary O'Rourke
- 26 Lee & Carolyn Smith
- 27 Jim & Leslie Carmichael
- 27 Joe & Margaret Smith
- 29 Sam & Ashle Basden
- 29 John & Colleen Ellis
- 29 Betty & Bill Weatherly
- 31 Tony & Julie Griffin

January anniversaries

- 2 Harry & Martha Hood
- 4 Mark & Colleen Moss
- 5 J. D. & Flora Carter
- 6 John & Laura Preston
- 8 Bill & Melinda Johnston
- 11 Butch & Leslie Allen
- 14 Jessup & Frances Whitley
- 15 Doug & Amy Bruner
- 15 Jerry & Millie Mullis
- 18 Darrell & Sandra Harrison

The Cherub and Chapel Choirs will be singing at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Mint Hill Town Hall on Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.



Registration for next year's weekday pre-school program is open for the month of December to PPC members. Starting in January, registration will be open to the community. To register or for more information, contact Dot Bartlett at 704-545-6172.

We welcome our new members, Luke and Abby Governale; 5224 Soaring Eagle Lane, Mint Hill, 28227. Luke and Susan joined by Letter of Transfer from Providence Presbyterian Church.

Happy December Birthday to . . .

- 1 Anna Haney
- 1 Ray Morris
- 1 Lee Smith
- 1 Avery West
- 2 Karen Davis
- 2 Jean Hargett
- 2 Kay Hastings
- 2 Grace Phillips
- 3 Vicki Crossman
- 3 Ryan Dayton
- 3 Millie Mullis
- 3 Millie Price
- 4 Terry Ennis
- 5 Liz Biggers
- 5 Daniel Phillips
- 5 Amelia Lawrence
- 5 Rachel Phillips
- 6 Ashle Basden
- 6 John Kiser
- 6 Wyonia Pourlos
- 6 Sandy Truby
- 7 Ronald Cochrane
- 7 Eric Cogswell
- 7 Rachel Hoover
- 7 Laura Jones
- 7 Tracy King
- 7 Nicholas Sharrett
- 7 Sue Tilley
- 7 Luella White
- 8 Kathy Bartlett
- 9 Rose Hawkins
- 9 James Norris
- 10 Brian Kirkland
- 10 Buddy Knotts
- 10 Robert Ann Phillips
- 11 Marty Lockridge
- 11 Austin Owens
- 12 Jack Burton
- 12 Christy Davis
- 12 Steve Horton
- 12 Alex O'Brien
- 12 Harvey Phillips
- 13 Bob Long
- 15 Emily Bauermeister
- 15 John Preston
- 16 Cindi Hoffner
- 16 Carleton Hamrick
- 17 Lizzie Blanchard
- 17 Katherine Ellis
- 17 Becky Robison
- 17 Conor Stout
- 18 Cathy Haney
- 18 Clyde Nance
- 18 Joshua Peshel
- 19 Judy Greeson
- 19 James Smith
- 19 Carl Street
- 19 Steve Vandeventer
- 20 Sue Aycock
- 20 Nancy Flowe
- 20 Stephanie Madanski
- 21 J. D. Carter
- 21 Ashley Moore
- 21 Jim Swiger
- 21 Todd Truby
- 22 Abby Governale
- 22 Sarah McMackin
- 22 Polly Ross
- 23 Mary O'Rourke
- 24 Sarah Cogswell
- 24 Handy Cooper
- 24 Jane Long
- 24 Caleb Simmons
- 24 Mike West
- 25 Shane Griffin
- 26 Eloise Black
- 26 Mary Muehl
- 27 Hunter Jones
- 27 Bob Wilcox
- 28 Leslie Anderson
- 28 Jeanette Driggers
- 28 Taylor Hall
- 29 Daisy Benton
- 29 Mikey Dellinger
- 29 Benton Lawrence
- 29 Erin Owens
- 30 Christopher Simmons
- 31 Glenn Herrington

Happy January Birthday to . . .

- 1 Billy Blackwelder
- 1 Bill Boyd
- 1 Christi Christian
- 1 Matt Corrigan
- 2 Jonathan Dulin
- 2 Jerry Mullis
- 3 Tanya Briner
- 3 Mike Hastings
- 3 Kristi Lawrence
- 3 Dale Surret
- 3 Sharon Surret
- 4 Elizabeth Griffin
- 5 Andrew Jaeger
- 5 Emily Plummer
- 6 Sylvia Gill
- 6 Robin McManus
- 6 Alice Pamplin
- 7 Porter Behrendt
- 7 Amy Cervantes
- 7 Rachel Nance
- 8 Sam Basden
- 8 Brenda King
- 8 Erin Moses
- 9 Tony Ward
- 10 Miles Baker
- 10 Michael Hill
- 10 Charlie Jones, Sr.
- 10 Allison Watts
- 11 Peggy Wilson
- 11 Barney Megargee
- 11 Tricia Moore
- 11 Frances Starr
- 12 Bob Bourgeois
- 13 Arnold Bokhoven
- 13 Rachel Tweed
- 13 Doug Vass
- 13 Whit Vosburgh
- 14 Carol Pelt
- 15 Kaitlyn Linscheid
- 15 McKenna Metz
- 16 Rachel Brinegar
- 16 Barbara Kistler
- 17 Brenda Funderburk
- 17 Martha Griffin
- 17 Angel McClure
- 17 Judith Orr
- 18 Herman Bauermeister
- 18 Shelley Guerin
- 19 Jessica Bradley
- 19 Jane Carriker
- 19 Dottie Kastner
- 19 Amy Lewis
- 19 Wesley Morris
- 19 Carol Timblin
- 19 Audrey Upchurch
- 20 Woody Cummins
- 20 Roger Hagy
- 20 Carolyn Platts
- 22 David Cox
- 22 Richard Gilbert
- 22 Rachel Griffin
- 22 Tim Kendrick
- 22 Jennifer Lawrence
- 22 Toby Vosburgh
- 23 Flora Carter
- 23 Jeffery Cochrane
- 23 Adam Ziemba
- 23 Lillian Lawrence
- 24 Pam Crowder
- 25 Gene Mullis
- 26 Holly Baker
- 26 Mary Davis
- 26 Brannon Foster
- 26 Don Jamison
- 26 Peyton Sailors
- 26 Helen Swiger
- 26 Carlene Tucker
- 26 Adam Upchurch
- 27 Adam Combes
- 27 Billy Foster, III
- 27 Abby Moulton
- 27 Tom Pritchard
- 27 Leslie Street
- 28 Olivia Christian
- 28 Austin Jones
- 28 Bob Tucker
- 29 Ted Morris
- 30 Caroline Reed
- 30 Carolyn Smith
- 31 Betty Ford
- 31 Annette Ward

MENS BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, December 5, at 7:30 a.m. in the Kerr Building. Come enjoy good food and fellowship.

Water you doing March 19-21, 2010?

Join us for our second annual church wide retreat, *Around the Water Cooler*, at Montreat! There will be intergenerational group study, worship, play, time to hike, shop, relax with friends, and just meditate.

A minimum deposit of \$50 per room will reserve your places *Around the Water Cooler*. Full deposit is refundable through December 31, 2009. In early January, however, we will need to release any unreserved rooms or be responsible for paying for all of them whether we use them or not. In order to obtain the accommodations you want for your family, you need to register ASAP! Please fill out a registration form, which can be found in the racks outside of the church office or at www.philadelphiachurch.org. Scholarships are available - contact Sonia Lee for details.

January Calendar

Friday, January 1

Office Closed

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, January 2

7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast—Kerr Building

Sunday, January 3

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel

9:45 a.m.—Church School

10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

4:00 p.m.—Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.—Session Rm.

5:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.

6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, January 4

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Rm.

7:00 p.m.—Christian Education Comm. Mtg.—Session Rm.

Tuesday, January 5

10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #1—Heritage Rm.

10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #2—Fred Brown Classroom

Wednesday, January 6

5:30 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Registration

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Heritage Rm.

6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, January 7

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II—Session Rm.

Friday, January 8

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, January 9

8:00 a.m.—Find Your Path

Sunday, January 10

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel

9:30 a.m.—Coffee—Bigham Hall

9:45 a.m.—Church School

10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

10:30 a.m.—Session Mtg.—Session Rm.

5:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, January 11

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Rm.

Tuesday, January 12

No Meetings

Wednesday, January 13

5:45 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Heritage Rm.

6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.

6:30 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg.—Steve Ross

7:30 p.m.—Deacons Mtg.—Session Rm.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, January 14

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Session Rm.

Friday, January 15

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, January 16

No Meetings

Sunday, January 17

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel

9:45 a.m.—Church School

10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.

7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, January 18

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Training—Heritage Rm.

6:30 p.m.—Scouts

7:00 p.m.—Session Mtg.—Session Rm.

Tuesday, January 19

10:30 a.m.—Jolly Good Timers—Kerr Bldg.



Wednesday, January 20

5:45 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Heritage Rm.

6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.

7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Session Rm.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, January 21

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session

Friday, January 22

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, January 23

7:00 a.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.

Sunday, January 24

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel

9:45 a.m.—Church School

10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

Monday, January 25

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Kerr Bldg.

Tuesday, January 26

6:30 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.

Wednesday, January 27

5:45 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Heritage Rm.

6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, January 28

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.

6:00 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session

Friday, January 29

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, January 30

7:00 a.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.

Sunday, January 31

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Chapel

9:45 a.m.—Church School

10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

In Memory Of

Evelyn Allen—Sandy Moore, Fred Brown/Harkey Class, Emma Lou Stansell, Jolly Good Timers (Fred Brown/Harkey SS Class), Theodore & Sigrid Morris (Zeb & Rea Mae Morris Cenetery Fund)

Harold Baird—Ernest & Linda Jamison, Sandy Moore, Fred Brown/Harkey SS Class, Patsy Long, Mr. & Mrs. William Boyd (Current Fund)

Margaret Jackson—Mr. & Mrs. Doug Duncan (Joy Ministry)

Betty Wentz—Kenneth Flowe (Current Fund)

If you gave a memorial gift and it is not listed, please contact the church office.

Deaths:

11/13 Evelyn Allen

11/16 [Valerie Jenkins] sister-in-law of Helen Smetts

11/16 [Betty Wallace] mother of Tim Wallace

11/21 Marla Culp

2009 Bazaar Update

The Presbyterian Women want to thank all who helped with any part of making this year's bazaar a huge success!!! So far we have raised \$22,000!!! Many men, women, teens, and children contributed their time talents and money to this event. \$2600 of this amount has gone toward the Habitat house our Church is building. The rest of the money will be distributed in February. If you or your group or committee wants to apply for funds, please fill out a form in front of the Church office and put it in box 84 by the end of January. Thank you again for your support. Next year will be our 40th bazaar!! See you there!!!



December Calendar

Tuesday, December 1

10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #1—Heritage Rm.
10:30 a.m.—PW Circle #2—Fred Brown Classroom

Wednesday, December 2

6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
6:00 p.m.—Disciple III Bible Study—Heritage Rm.
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, December 3

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Session Rm.
6:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Building
7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Friday, December 4

5:00 p.m.—Children's Choir Practice—Kerr Bldg.
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, December 5

7:30 a.m.—Men's Breakfast—Kerr Bldg.

Sunday, December 6

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.—Children's Christmas Pageant—Kerr Bldg.
10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, December 7

5:00 p.m.—Stephen Ministry Training—Heritage Rm.
7:00 p.m.—Christian Education Comm. Mtg.—Session Rm.

Tuesday, December 8

6:30 p.m.—Disciple Bible Study—Session Rm.
7:00 p.m.—PW Circle #6—Fred Brown Classroom

Wednesday, December 9

5:45 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
6:00 p.m.—Disciple III Bible Study—Heritage Rm.
6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
6:30 p.m.—Building & Grounds Comm. Mtg.—Steve Ross
7:30 p.m.—Deacons Mtg.—Session Rm.
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, December 10

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.
6:00 p.m.—Disciple III—Session Rm.
7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut
7:00 p.m.—Planning & Review Comm. Mtg.—Heritage Rm.

Friday, December 11

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut
8:00 p.m.—High School Youth Lock-in—Kerr Bldg.

Saturday, December 12

7:00 a.m.—Blood Drive—Bigham Hall

Sunday, December 13

8:30 a.m.—Session Meeting—Kerr Building
9:30 a.m.—Coffee—Bigham Hall
9:45 a.m.—Church School
10:00 a.m.—Choir Christmas Program—Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, December 14

7:00 p.m.—Personnel & Admin. Comm. Mtg.—Fred Brown Classroom

7:00 p.m.—Bible Study—Rm. 102

Tuesday, December 15

10:30 a.m.—Jolly Good Timers—Kerr Bldg.

Wednesday, December 16

5:45 p.m.—Wonderful Wednesday Program
6:00 p.m.—Disciple III Bible Study—Heritage Rm.
6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
7:00 p.m.—PW Council Mtg.—Session Rm.
7:30 p.m.—Longest Night Service—Chapel
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, December 17

5:00 p.m.—Youth Basketball—Kerr Bldg.
6:00 p.m.—Disciple III Bible Study—Session Rm.
7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

Friday, December 18

8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, December 19

No Meetings

Sunday, December 20

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.—Church School
10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.—Philabell Practice—Bell Choir Rm.
7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Practice—Adult Choir Rm.

Monday, December 21

6:30 p.m.—Scouts—Kerr Bldg.
7:00 p.m.—Session Mtg.—Session Rm.

Tuesday, December 22

No Meetings

Wednesday, December 23

6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, December 24

Office Closed
5:30 p.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut
11:00 p.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

Friday, December 25

Office Closed
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (closed)—Old Scout Hut

Saturday, December 26

No Meetings

Sunday, December 27

8:35 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary
9:45 a.m.—Church School
10:50 a.m.—Worship Service—Sanctuary

Monday, December 28

No Meetings

Tuesday, December 29

No Meetings

Wednesday, December 30

6:00 p.m.—Disciple II Bible Study—Heritage Rm.
6:00 p.m.—Room In The Inn—Kerr Bldg.
8:00 p.m.—AA Mtg. (open)—Old Scout Hut

Thursday, December 31

7:00 p.m.—A.A. Mtg.—Old Scout Hut

December 11 sign-up deadline for Confirmation Class

Faith is a gift given by God, and we do not control how God bestows it. However, we, together with the whole church, can set up the conditions that help teens accept the faith that God offers. Confirmation is an opportunity for our young people to explore what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ and to be a Christian in today's world. If your child is in 8th grade or older and wants to strengthen his or her faith and commitment to Christ's church, **please contact Sonia** in the church office (545-6172 or sleeppc@bellsouth.net) by **December 11** to have her or him enrolled in our confirmation class. Because faith develops at various rates in different individuals, we will **not** assume that all 8th graders plan to participate in this confirmation class. Please speak to Sonia personally to ensure that your child is enrolled in Confirmation 2010.

The spring semester of **Wonderful Wednesdays** will begin on **January 13** and run through **March 24, 2010**. Please register or renew the registration for your child by **January 6**. Cost is \$35.00 for children in preschool and \$45.00 for those in kindergarten and up. Volunteers are always needed! If you can assist with teaching, please let one of the directors know: Brenda Morris – 882-4437, Monique Andrews – 576-6920, or Sonia Lee – 545-6172.

Thank You Notes

Thank you for all your cards, calls, visits, food, and most of all your prayers. It sustained us through this difficult year.

A big Thank You to both Chuck and Lee who were always there for us.

Elizabeth Baird and family

* * *

A special note of gratitude to my friends and colleagues at Philadelphia Church for your condolences and prayers on the death of my sister, Donna. She will be sorely missed by my entire family.

Dean Ferguson

A Simple Gift with a Higher Purpose

“At the Urban Ministry Center, we have a holiday tradition that honors the true spirit of the season. This year, consider our Holiday Honor Card instead of traditional gifts for your friends, family and clients. A donation given in their honor directly supports our ministry of providing life-sustaining services and life-changing programs to poor and homeless people in Charlotte. Your purchase of our 2009 Honor Card is a direct investment in God’s people. Isn’t that what Christmas is all about? And yes, we are happy to mail the cards on your behalf. Our gift to you.”



Christmas Cards

[Order form includes space for names and addresses if you would like for the Urban Ministry to mail your cards in your behalf. This year’s artist is Willie Gray, who will receive a portion of the proceeds for the sale of his card, which showcases his piece entitled *Uptown*. It is a lovely card. A sample card and order forms will be on the desk at the Officer’s mailboxes.]

New Year, New Disciple Bible Studies

Two short-term Disciple Bible Studies will begin in early 2010. For more information or if you are interested in joining one of these classes, please contact Mike Barkley (*Invitation to John*), Cindi Hoffner (*Invitation to Romans*), or Sonia Lee in the church office.

Captain Grant Cloaninger
Team Avenger, TF 1-150 AHB
FOB Delta
APO AE 09317

Rachel Brinegar
513 Circle Drive, Apt. A1
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Davis, Matthew B. GM1
USS Farragut (DDG 99)
FPO AA 34091-1211



Habitat Update

The enthusiasm our congregation has shown has propelled the Lual house ahead of schedule, despite several wet weekends. We are planning to work Thanksgiving weekend (Nov.28th). If you have a son or daughter home for the holidays maybe a Saturday working at the Lual house would be a special Thanksgiving family project. Also a thank you to Phyllis and Gerald Garner for coordinating morning snacks and lunches.

We are still raising money to finish the house. Here is a Christmas idea. Instead of buying gifts for the adults in your family (brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles) why not give a donation to Habitat in honor of your loved ones.

If you would like to volunteer to work, you can sign the work sheet in the administration hallway, or email Toby Vosburgh tvosburgh@carolina.rr.com. If you would like to help with lunches contact Phyllis and Gerald Garner

Directions: Take old highway 51 cross Independence Blvd. and proceed to the next stop light. Take a left on Crestdale Road. Go to the next road on the left, Matthews School Rd. Matthews School Rd will wind through a neighborhood and deadend at Sunrise Crossing. The Lual house is in the first cul-de-sac.

Dr. Chuck Williamson, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Lee Koontz, Associate Pastor
Sonia Lee, Director of Christian Education
Judy Clinton, Office Manager
Cynthia Stokes, Secretary
Linda Cummins, Webmaster/Administrative Assistant



www.philadelphiachurch.org

Matt Simone, Youth Coordinator
Gary Forbis, Director of Music
Marnie Gallagher, Youth Choir Director
Melinda Johnston, Children’s Choir Director
Leslie Anderson, Organist
Shirley Simmons, *Philagram* Editor

The Philagram

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
11501 Bain School Road
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December 2009-January 2010

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