

THE PIEDMONT EPISTLE

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS BY WORD AND DEED

DECEMBER, 2009

BOX 305 MADISON, VIRGINIA, 22727

WEBSITE: WWW.PIEDMONTEPISCOPALCHURCHVA.ORG

RECTOR'S CORNER

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross *Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)*.” This quote by the apostle Paul is probably the earliest and most significant statement in the Bible concerning the nature of the Incarnation, the fact that God became man. As we become surrounded by the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations it is worth taking time to consider this meaning-giving core of the Christian Christmas. Our Christian faith is our belief that it is in the Child humbly born in Bethlehem that God has revealed himself. And our Christian faith also affirms that God's will is demonstrated in the passion, death and exaltation of this same Child.

Some years ago, I was privileged to share in the celebration of life and burial of our son, Paul's, godfather. John was a WWII hero who flew sixty-two missions in the south Pacific, lived to raise a wonderful family, and took care of three rescued racing greyhounds and a flock of homing pigeons in his later years as a widower. What remains in my memory of that day is what happened after the service at St. John's Episcopal Church and the burial of John's ashes at the cemetery. We were standing at the grave after the final prayers of the committal, when John's son leaned down to a cage full of John's homing pigeons waiting to be released. In a burst of energy and purposefulness the flock of white rose above us in the winter sky, circled three times, and in concert flew in the direction of their home. It was beautiful. And somehow the flight of those birds encapsulated the living, giving, and expressive encounter of this world and the person of John Wesley Stoddard. He was going home, and so were they.

Sometimes a solitary event, such as this, has within it the resources necessary to bring meaning on an *expansive* scale. One Christmas an elderly woman who had at one time been in the church's choir said to me, her eyes brimming-full with tears, “Think of it Brad, ‘the hopes and fears of all the years’ were met in that one small child born in Bethlehem.”

Jesus became for all time the expression of God's love. For generations the people of Israel had seen God's love in redeeming acts. Now God's love becomes universally know for all time in God's own person, Jesus. Poor shepherds saw Jesus born in a manger and gave witness to his birth. Wealthy magi followed the star and worshiped him with gifts. Today, factory workers and farmers; kings, queens and presidents of nations alike are the recipients of his forgiving presence. Born in humility, executed between two thieves, and raised in glory, Jesus has become our Brother and our King.

John Stoddard's pigeons created a choreography that expressively illustrated his life and homecoming. The humble birth of Jesus creates a divine choreography between our heavenly Father who acts in history, our brother Christ who reveals himself in human flesh, and the life-giving Holy Spirit who he gives to us.

Listen to the words of another elderly person, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” Thanks be to God.

PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

WE OFFER PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR: Jacqueline Smith, Hailey Vannetta, Nicky Bourgeois (Doris Lackey's friend who suffers with cancer), Sara Parmenter, Ralph McDanolds, Sarah Woodfield (Carol Robertson's niece injured in a motorcycle accident), Mary Walker (recovering from back surgery), Gail Bowers (cancer), Sara DeLaurentis (relative of Sue Burnett with an eating disorder), Janet Davis, Peter Castillo (friends of Susan Kennedy with cancer), Sara Loken, Cheryl Tompkins and Janet Chrismore (friends of the Henken's who have cancer), Ginny McGetrick, Lani Butler (neighbor of Beverly Young with cancer), Martha Law (Hardie Newton's sister), Karen Vinson (Mike's wife), Bernice Egbert, Becky McCaffery (Mike Vinson's sister-in-law), Alan Young (Beverly Young's father), Nathan Ayers, George Novak, Marianne Krause, Dorothy Mudd, Ray Lackey (at Orange Dogwood Center), Jens Clausen (Helle's brother has cancer), Robert Ullrich, Tommy Kendall (Kathe's son), Jeff Yowell, Scott Collier, Pat Price, Nelson & Carolyn Lamb, Mary Haley, Patrick Fohner (child suffering with eye problems), Lorraine Sandifer (Vera Griffin's sister, degenerative vertebrae), Jeff Laffond, Jessica McCoy (Maria Kohl's & granddaughter), Leila Clark, Ruby Minick (grandmother of a friend of Kay Johns), Burton Stapp (Ginger Strait's brother), Charlie Britten, Sue Lam, Edith Golden & Joyce Smith (Joe Hilliard's sister & niece), Betty Thomas (friend of Barbara Straightiff), Travis Beckner (18 yrs old friend of Ed Webster in auto accident), Wallace Carmen (Bethany Craig's father), Paul Longerbeam, Cathy Fort, Miriam Terninko (friend of Birkhofer's suffering with cancer), Bart Hinkle (Bess Landolt's father), Ted and Rene Hinds, Russ Landolt (Jim Landolt's uncle has prostate cancer), Bob and Elsie Hubbell (Jean Kane's step-father & mother), and Sandra Clore (Waltine Robinson's niece has M.S.).

We pray for the peoples of Zimbabwe, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Burma, Haiti, and the Gulf Coast. We pray for our missionaries Sarah & Gary Greenwood in Peru, Robbinah Kobusingye in Uganda; service men and women: Justin Poage, Joseph Jarrell, Nathan Gray, Christopher Miller, in Iraq; Hugh Wingate and Mathew Strecker in Afghanistan.

We pray for our presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori; our bishops, Shannon Johnston and David Jones, the churches of the Diocese of Virginia, and for our brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion's 38 churches.

We pray for the families in Barbara's House; for the work of Madison Emergency Services Association, Habitat for Humanity, the Madison Free Clinic, the Literacy Council of Madison County, and the Boy's and Girl's Club of Madison.

We pray for our college students: Staesha Walker, Isabelle Puryear, Willie Dale, Josh Zarambo, Katie and Michael Parker, Claire Jackson, Kim Henken, Julia Craig, Julie Eaheart, Grace Pastore, and Haley Bader. We also pray for Synda John at Howard Law School.

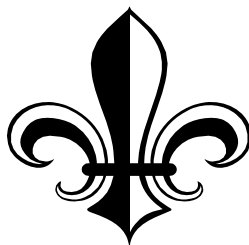
We offer prayers for the family of Reginald Clore Jr. who died this November. Reginald was Mike Robertson's uncle. At the time of his death he was living at the Evergreen Residence in Stanardsville, Virginia where he received the loving care of their staff and nurses. May Reginald go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service. We give God thanks for the renewed health of Ginny McGetrick. Ginny became very ill with cancer earlier this year. But with prayer, wonderful medical attention, and determination the cancer is now in remission. Ginny and her husband Marty are planning a trip to Alaska!

Please pray daily as a household or individual for your prayer partners listed on the adjoining page. During the month, please carry your prayer into action by exchanging some token of Christian love. Send them a card with your picture(s), exchange a meal, sit together during church, or visit at the social hour after church. If you keep a regular prayer list, you may decide to continue to pray for your previous month's prayer partners.

DECEMBER WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion Rite I
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion Rite II/Sunday School/nursery
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hour in the Parish House
	11:40 a.m.	Stephen's Ministry Class on <u>Christian Caregiving</u>
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Adult study group at the McDowell's home
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Study: <u>Welcome to the Wisdom of the World</u>
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Al Anon Group
	9:30 a.m.	First Friends Preschool Chapel Service
	6:00 p.m.	Parish Potluck Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Piedmont Church Choir rehearsal
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Bible Fellowship & Christian Caregiving Class
	6:45 am	Young Life in Parish House
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer 1 st 3 rd & 5 th
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Autumn Care 2 nd & 4 th

Regular Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 to 12:30.



Special Events Calendar

Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:00 pm	Piedmont Vestry meeting
Thursday, Dec. 3 at 1:00 pm	Troop Support meets at the Parish House
Friday, Dec. 4 at 8:00 pm	Madison Choral Society at St. Thomas, Orange
Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10:30 am	Guitar Recital of Mike Vinson's students / PEC
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 9:30 am	Brunch Bunch at Alma & Jim Koontz
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 10:00 am	Folk Choir plays for the service of Holy Eucharist
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4:00 pm	Madison Choral Society/Mt. Carmel, Haywood
Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 11:30 am	Madison Ministers at Phil & Shirley Hunsicker's
Thursday, Dec. 10	Office Closed for Executive Board Meeting
Friday, Dec. 11 at 11:00 am	Holy Communion at Autumn Care
Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 10:00 am	Region I Clericus in Fredericksburg
Friday, Dec. 18 at 11:00 am	Holy Communion at Autumn Care
Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10:00 am	Children & Youth Christmas Pageant
Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 10:00 am	Christmas decorating party in Piedmont Church
Thursday, Dec. 24 at 4 & 8 pm	Christmas Eve Services of Holy Eucharist
Sunday, Dec. 27 at 10:00 am	Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010	Piedmont Episcopal Church Annual Meeting
Th. – Sat., Jan. 28-30, 2010	Diocese of Virginia Annual Council, Richmond

VESTRY NOTES

The Piedmont Church vestry met Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish House living room. Highlights of the meeting included: a monthly treasurer's report by Roger Schreiner with information that the parish roof renovation project has been successfully completed and paid for in full with money left to help lower our 2009 deficit.

Our December Outreach Offering is being given to "New Vision" a ministry in Fredericksburg for women who have been released from prison and who need a helping hand. January's Outreach Offering will go to our boy's home in Covington, Virginia and the Jackson Felid Home for Girls in Richmond and Jarrett, Virginia.

Because of the age and poor condition of our previous parish house roof, the kitchen ceiling had been severely damaged. We give thanks to Neal Breeding for his repair to this ceiling which took several days of plastering and repainting.

Eve Bargmann, Ann Skidmore and Barbara Breeding were asked to be the Nominating Committee for the vestry's three 2010-2012 positions. Members in good standing who would like to serve on the vestry may indicate this on their Every Member Canvass commitment cards or talk to one of these three committee members.

A vestry letter and commitment card outlining our Every Member Canvass was approved for distribution to the congregation. The vestry thanks Vickie Parker and Jaynie Jackson for copying, collating and mailing these letters on their behalf.

The meeting closed with prayer by Eve Bargmann, Sr. Warden.

A NOTE OF THANKS

The congregation of Piedmont Church and the members of the Graves Mill Community thank Jill Schreiner, Beppy White, and Dink Kreis for organizing this year's Harvest Festival at Graves Chapel. The event included a lively Thanksgiving worship with music led by Mike Vinson on hammer dulcimer. Our worship was followed by a wonderful covered dish supper and good conversation. It was great to get to meet some new members of the Graves Mill Community.

We also thank Conner Puryear and his brother Clay for their efforts in cleaning up the church yard following the "fall leafing." Conner was earning community service hours, but we got the work. Thanks Conner!

TROOP SUPPORT GROUP

The Madison Country Troop Support group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in Piedmont Church's Parish House to assemble boxes of goodies and send them to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. People who would like to help may come this Tuesday, December 3. Helpful items to donate are listed on a bulletin board in the kitchen and may be deposited in the Troop Support box on the parish house carport.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS 1 AND 2!!!

The Madison Choral Society invites you to an evening of beautiful music that will prepare your hearts for the Christmas season. The concerts are Friday, December 4 at 8:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Orange and Sunday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m. in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Haywood. The Sunday concert is followed by a finger-food reception.

GUITAR RECITAL

Please join Mike Vinson and his guitar students for a recital and reception at Piedmont Church on Saturday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m. The recital will include some of our own members and will be followed by light refreshments in the parish house.

SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCH BUNCH

The Sunday Morning Brunch Bunch invites you to dine with them on the first Sunday of each month following the 8:30 a.m. service. You are invited to bring a breakfast dish to share and an offering for the MESA food closet. The next brunch will be on December 6 at the home of Alma and Jim Koontz. More details about hosts and location for future brunches are posted on the bulletin board.

NATIVITY PAGEANT

A nativity pageant will be offered by the children and youth of our church at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 20. Please make plans to have your children at Sunday school during the month of December for rehearsals.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Piedmont Church's Nativity of our Lord will be celebrated with two services on Christmas Eve. The 4:00 p.m. worship will be a shortened service for families with small children. The 8:00 p.m. will begin with special music by our choir. Please come and bring your friends.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A service of Lessons and Carols will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on December 27.

TREASURER'S REPORT

You should have received your every member canvass letter. It is not too late to submit your Canvass card for 2010 and hope that you will do so within the next few weeks before the Church budget meetings are held in early December. To date, the cards received have been very encouraging with almost everyone increasing their pledges (along with several new pledges) to help out with our budget shortfall. The cards also indicate your interests in serving the Church. Additional copies of the canvass card can be found at the back of the Church. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on the 2010 budget process, contact your Senior Warden, Eve Bargmann, or your Treasurers.

If you have any questions about your remaining pledge for 2009 see Beppy or Roger. You should receive your annual summary of 2009 giving sometime in January which can be used for tax purposes.

BE AN ANGEL – SELECT AN ANGEL

Once again Piedmont Church will work with the Skyline Cap Head Start Program to provide young children, ages 3-5, with Christmas gifts and books. Gift requests can be selected from the Angel Tree in the Parish House beginning today. Please sign your name on the sheet once you have selected an angel so that we can check the gifts before delivery. Wrapped toys with the angel tied to the package should be returned to the Parish House no later than Sunday, December the 13th in order for them to be delivered for the Christmas Party at the Primary School. The price range for gifts should average no more than \$15.00. While every effort should be made to find the gift the child has selected, we know it is not always possible. Please find a reasonable alternative using your best judgment on price and selection.

Please contact Kathy Henken at 923-5132 if you have any questions or would like to help with this project.

DECK THE HALLS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 23rd, at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to participate. Please bring conditioned greenery and clippers if you have them. Donations are being accepted for poinsettias, wreaths, and altar arrangements. Checks may be written to Piedmont Episcopal Church, with "Poinsettias" written in the memo section and placed in the collection plate. Please come and enjoy Christian fellowship as we prepare for the celebration of the Savior's birth.

PIEDMONT HELPER LIST

DECEMBER 2009

	6 th	13 th	20 th	24 th	27 th
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion 4pm and 8pm Services	Lessons & Carols
Acolyte	Abbi Griffith	Josh Good	Paul Jackson		Ben Landolt
Crucifer	Isabella Hansen	Christian Hansen	Sebastian Stevens		
Altar Care	Barbara Straightiff, Beppy White, and Waltine Robinson				
Chalice	Skip McDanolds	Bob Nowak	Norris John	4:00 p.m. Norris John 8:00 p.m. Skip McDanolds	
8:30 Lector/ Intercessor 10:00	Bill Robinson Serena Imel & Jaynie Jackson Form I	Griff Griffin Jim & Mary Walker Form II	Dee Dee Lyon Roger & Jill Schreiner Form III	4:00 p.m. Sue Brown 8:00 p.m. Reggie Dale, Colt & Clay Puryear Form IV	Joanie Edwards Congregation
Refreshments	Kathy Henken	Pat Roberts & Sherry Spencer	Susan Good & Sunday School		Vickie Parker
Usher	Jim Landolt	Carol Nowak	Kay John	4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. Doug & Jacqueline Mow	Kavanaugh White
Vestry Person	Helen Robertson	Barbara Breeding	Ann Skidmore		Bob Nowak

DECEMBER PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray daily as a household or individual for this entire household by name. During the month, please carry your prayer into action by exchanging some token of Christian love. Send them a card with your picture(s), exchange a meal, sit together during church, or visit at the social hour after church. If you keep a regular prayer list, you may decide to continue to pray for your previous month's prayer partners.

Locate your name (sorted in alphabetical order by last name) then identify your prayer partner for the month in the opposite column.

Jack & Heidi Adams	Ed & Ginger Webster
Emily Amos	Kavanaugh & Beppy White
Brian & Rebecca Bader	Beverly Young
Robert and Dorothy Bair	Sharon Zarambo
Eve Bargmann & Joe Polin	Dee Dee Lyon
Jeanne Bender	Ed & Teresa Matricardi
Jim Bernat & Debbie Ball	Rich & Linda Maurer
Bill & George Ann Birkhofer	Ralph McDanolds
Neil & Barbara Breeding	Skip McDanolds
Sue Brown	Nick & Cindy McDowell
Sue Burnett	Margy McLain
Chris & Jessica Burnside	Marty & Martha Mikula
Susan Cable	Cecil Morgan
Clay Campbell	Kathryn & Tony Morris
Marjorie Cave	LTC Doug & Jacqueline Mow
Jack & Martha Cornwell	Paul Munson
Arthur & Bethany Craig	Hardie Newton
Reggie & Helle Dale	George & Margaret Novak
Spencer & Mary Chilton DeJarnette	Bob & Carol Nowak
Angela Dodson	Jim & Bettie Parker
Celia Dollarhide	Joe & Vickie Parker
Jenny Edwards	Glenn & Deborah Poage
Joan Edwards	Dotty Posey
Cathy Fort	Betty Pumphrey
Steve & Shelby Gohn	Kim Pumphrey
Sam & Susan Good	Beau Puryear
Griff & Vera Griffin	Colt & Katie Puryear
Mark & Diane Haddon	Jim & Pat Roberts
Erin Haggerty	Carol Robertson
Brad & Lydia Hansen	Chris & Jennie Robertson
Dave & Kathy Henken	Mike & Helen Robertson
Joe Hilliard	Waltine Robinson
Dona Hutchinson	Adele Baker & Bill Robinson
Frank & Susan Hyland	Briarley Rogers
Brad & Jaynie Jackson	Maria Rosenberg
Betty James	Doreen Russell
Rose Jenkins	Steve & Molly Sanford
Norris & Kay John	Charlotte Scott

Marcela Johnson	Justin Scott
Walker & Alice Jones	Ann Skidmore
Jean Kane	Anthony Soucek
Kathe Kendall	Nick & Sherry Spencer
Larry & Susan Kennedy	Barbara Straightiff
Jim & Alma Koontz	Carolyn Stanley
Dink Kreis	Carl and Serena Tendziegloski
Ray and Doris Lackey	Gretchen Theobald
Nelson & Carolyn Lamb	Mary O. Thompson
Jim & Bess Landolt	Fiona Tustian
Sara Loken	Allison Vidal
Keith & Blair Lonergan	Jim & Mary Walker