

# *Tower Chimes*

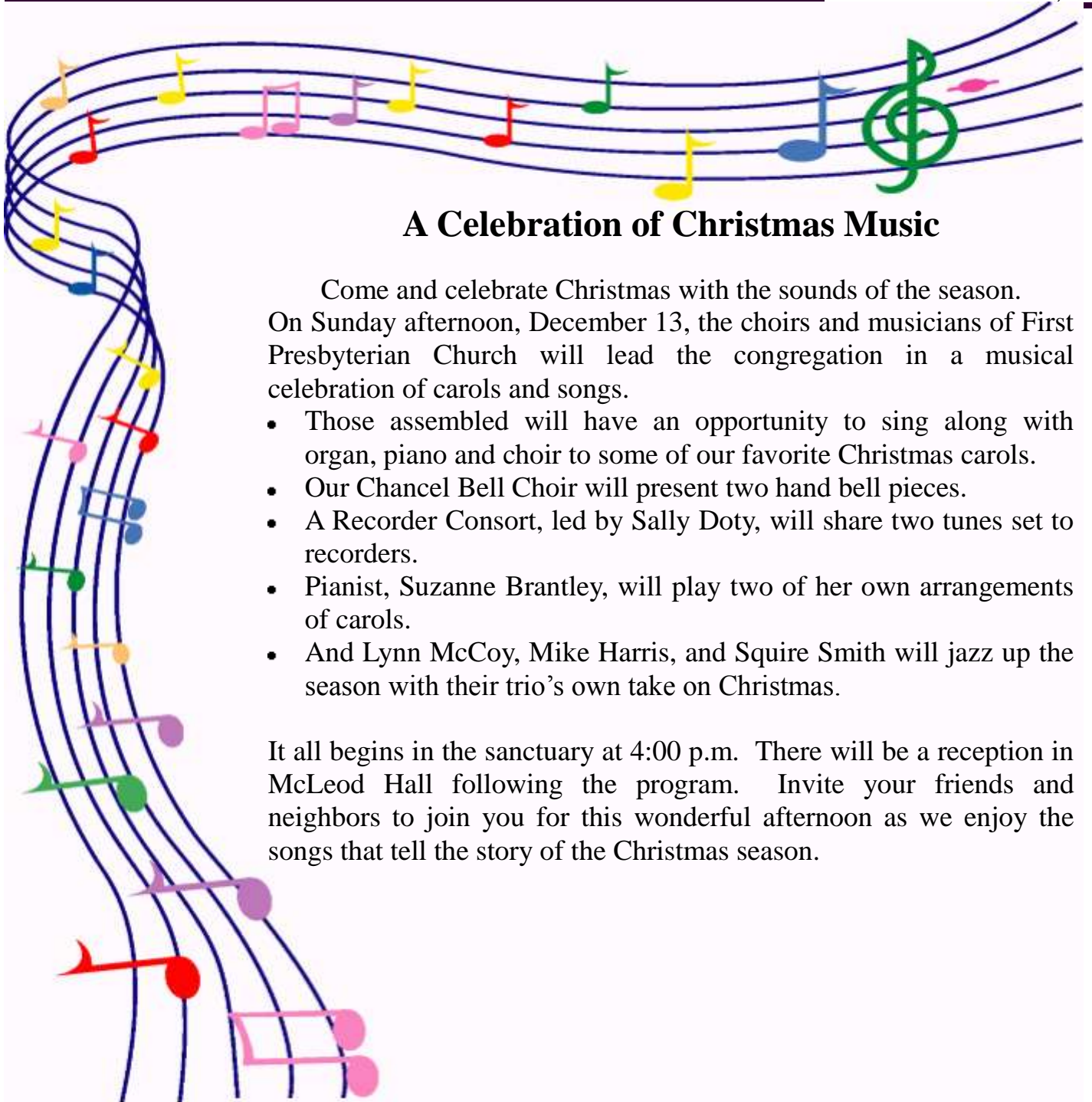
## *First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven Florida*



December 13, 2009

Issue 301

123 Years of Ministry



### **A Celebration of Christmas Music**

Come and celebrate Christmas with the sounds of the season. On Sunday afternoon, December 13, the choirs and musicians of First Presbyterian Church will lead the congregation in a musical celebration of carols and songs.

- Those assembled will have an opportunity to sing along with organ, piano and choir to some of our favorite Christmas carols.
- Our Chancel Bell Choir will present two hand bell pieces.
- A Recorder Consort, led by Sally Doty, will share two tunes set to recorders.
- Pianist, Suzanne Brantley, will play two of her own arrangements of carols.
- And Lynn McCoy, Mike Harris, and Squire Smith will jazz up the season with their trio's own take on Christmas.

It all begins in the sanctuary at 4:00 p.m. There will be a reception in McLeod Hall following the program. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you for this wonderful afternoon as we enjoy the songs that tell the story of the Christmas season.

## Church Calendar

### Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Bell Ensemble  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. FMS  
4:00 p.m. Yth Comm Mtg (GR)  
5:30 p.m. SHYG, (SC)

### Monday, December 14

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.  
10:00 a.m. Lydia Circle (MH)  
6:30 p.m. Session-Dinner (MH)  
7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle (GR)

### Tuesday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, (MCR)  
9:30 a.m. Joy Circle  
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)  
6:00 p.m. Deacon's (Off Site)

### Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.  
11:30 a.m. Advent Study (GR)  
3:30 p.m. Christ Kids  
5:30 p.m. MSYG (SC)  
6:10 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)  
6:30 p.m. Advent Study (GR)  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

### Thursday, December 17

5:30 p.m. LNS Dinner (MH)

### Friday, December 18

8:30 a.m. M.O.M.

### Saturday, December 19

2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep.,  
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen, 737 Bldg  
6:00 p.m. LNS  
7:00 p.m. LNS  
7:00 p.m. SNL (737 Bldg)

### Bag Lunch & Soup Kitchen Week of 12/05/09

Bag Lunches Given Out 344  
Fed at the Soup Kitchen 96

**Chapel Bells** (beginning bells) will take a Christmas break and resume January 7. We are in desperate need of ringers. If you would like to be a bell ringer please call the church office at 294-3121.

### Do You Remember What the Weather Was Like On Saturday December 5?

It was rainy and yet that was the day scheduled for the construction of the stable. Dave Tannahill, Henry Braun, Kevin Britt, Rob Frost, Jonathan Owen braved the elements and built the stable as if it had been a day filled with glorious Florida sunshine. We are most grateful for their willingness to be soaked to the skin while laboring to get the stable built for our Living Nativity Scene 2009. Thanks again for not letting this rainy day get you down and putting the stable up!

### FIRST FACTS

**Robert Christian Luxford II** will receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio State University on Sunday December 13, 2009. His degree is in International Studies with a minor in Persian. **Congratulations, Robbie!**

### PW in Action

#### **Purpose: Mission**

Our **THANK OFFERING** in November totaled \$277.00. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women will meet in Louisville early in 2010 to approve grants using the 2009 Thank Offerings collected nationwide. When we find out who the recipients are, we'll let you know. Meanwhile, many thanks to those of you who went this "second mile" in giving to forward the work of God's Kingdom.

### Poinsettia Delivery

Again, this year, we invite members to help deliver our beautiful Christmas flowers to those who are not able to come to church. We have scheduled two dates for delivery. The first will be Monday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. and the second delivery will be Monday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m. You may pick up the poinsettias in McLeod Hall along with the address and note pads.

**Advent 2009** to Epiphany 2010 Devotional Booklets are available and are in McLeod Hall. If you reserved your devotional booklet, please mark off your name and take your devotional out of the box marked RESERVED. If you did not reserve a booklet ahead of time, please take a booklet out of the non-reserved box or sign your name on the sign up sheet if the box is empty to reserve your own Advent Devotional. Thank you!

## Remember in Prayer

**Hospital:** Kathryn Marshall-WH, & Dick Kingham-LRMC

### In Need of Your Prayers:

Anna Marie Barton	Betty Johnson
Barbara Bissett	Al Kersbergan
Ann Burch	Bob Lindstrom
Britt Family	Janice Maranda
George & Sylvia Chambers	Jerry Maranda
Geraldine Chilton	Grayce McNamara
Alice Colgrove	Joan Murphy
Norma Conner	Jean Parks
Rich & Buddie Daniel	Judy Partain
Eunice Dishman	Jackie Pinckney
Helen Dunaway	Dee Palmore
Twila Forsyth	Marguerite Sowards
Bob Gerber	Bert Schulz
Betty Jo Gray	Myrtice Stolz
Helen Gross	Barbara Sweeney
Harold & Mary Hosier	Hazel Thomas
Mary Pat Harding	Sandra Turley
Al & Ann Hays	Ann Wilford
Marj Howe	

### Friends & Relatives:

Brenda Chandler	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Dorothy Commons	(John Bader's mother)
Allison DeSalvatore	(Mary Ellen Porter's friend)
Robert Franklin	(Paul & Marilyn Sherer's brother)
Bill Johnson	(Kim Lockhart's father)
Dick Madaus	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Jimmy Pettitt	(Carol Anne Golden's friend)
Sarah Voisard	(Mary Ellen Porter's friend)
Ebbie Wampler	(Punkin Smith's friend)
Brian White	(John Bader's friend)
Dustin Wilkinson	(Lee & Pam Wilkinson's son)
Jan Wilson	(Mary Ellen Rowker & Jane Whitney's cousin)

### In Military Service:

Eddie Gray	Michael Dobler	Ryan Beissinger
Jacob Spence	Derek Shelton	Adam Bass
Leah (Doty) Fuscia	Adam McPhail	David Knowles
Sean Harp	Daniel Harp	Brian Parrish
James E. Baker	Jarrett Abbott	Aaron Ashley
Chris Hagen	Bridgette Thompson	Chris Turner

### Youth Schedule

December 13	HSYG	3:30-5:30 p.m.
	Food Scavenger Hunt (SC)	
December 16	MSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.
	Movie Night	
December 20	HSYG	5:30-7:30 p.m.
	Living Nativity	
December 23	NO YOUTH GROUP	
December 27	NO YOUTH GROUP	
December 30	NO YOUTH GROUP	

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Peters at [jpeters@firstpreswh.org](mailto:jpeters@firstpreswh.org) or 232-7337.

### ATTENTION

All Committee Chairs and  
Organization Leaders!  
Annual Reports are due  
December 20

## Walking in a Winter Wonderland at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

**Preschool Children** - will meet in Room 108 for their fabulous Sunday school time filled with singing, crafts, and a Bible story.

**Children in kindergarten through fifth grade** - will focus on *The Gift of Jesus* this winter with their Workshop Rotation. During this six week lesson, children will be able to experience the Bible story through computers, art, science, storytelling, cooking, and movies.

**Middle School and High School Youth** - will meet in the Student Center as they share in discussions that focus on the major events and teachings in Jesus' life. Both groups meet together for a time of prayer and fellowship and then break into two separate groups for sharing. These classes are taught by a rotation of volunteers from our congregation.

## Adult Sunday School Classes

**The Perspectives Class** will continue their discussion on *Who is Jesus/Who was Jesus* by Marcus Borg. Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas facilitate this class. Feel free to drop in this fall even if you didn't participate last year. This class meets in the Geneva Room.

**Ancient Israel and Early Judaism** - Join discussion leader Bob Hubbard in a study of the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel and early Judaism as presented in the pages of the Old Testament. This will not be your typical Bible study class! It will center around a lecture series presented on DVD by Professor Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Although this is a college level course, Dr. Levine has a delightful and very down-to-earth teaching style that anyone will be able to understand and learn from. This class will run for 24 weeks, through May 23, 2010. Each lecture lasts about 30 minutes and will be followed by class discussion or question time. The DVD will be started PROMPTLY at 9:55 a.m. in the Edinburg Annex, so please be in your seats by then, with your seatbelts fastened, so you don't miss any of the scenery on this fascinating and eye-opening journey through the pages of Part

**The weekly Advent Bible Study** focusing on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* as a text with allusions to scripture passages began on Wednesday, December 2. The study continues on Wednesday, December 9, 16, and 23 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Geneva Room and you are most welcome to join us for any of these sessions, even if you missed the first session. For this week's lesson, please read Stave Two—The First of the Three Spirits. Wednesday, December 16 will focus on Stave Three—The Second of the Three Spirits, and Wednesday, December 23 will focus on Stave Four—The Last of the Spirits. We look forward to celebrating the Advent season together during this study.

**The Living Nativity Scene** rolling sign up board is in the Narthex. Please sign up to fill a roll as a nativity scene character, or to help with costumes, construction, hospitality, (serving food, greeting, serving as a tour guide), or traffic control. Also, there is a signup sheet if you are willing to provide cookies, apple juice, or hot cocoa mix (in bulk rather than envelopes). The living nativity is December 19 and 20.

It is a yearly tradition in our church to use poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas services. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please fill out the poinsettia order form below and place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office.

A complete listing of donors and persons being memorialized or honored will be printed in the bulletin on December 20. (Please attach a note with the pertinent information **IF ordering more than one poinsettia**).

**Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In MEMORY of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In HONOR of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my poinsettia after 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday December 20.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my poinsettia after Christmas Eve service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.



The cost is \$10.00 per plant—Deadline is December 13—checks should be made out to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Poinsettia Fund." Mail your form and your check to the church office or place in the offering plate.

Number of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
637 6th Street NW  
Winter Haven, F33881  
Phone: 863-294-3121  
E-mail: office@firstpreswh.org

### Our Purpose

*As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven exists to show God's kingdom to the world as we*

*...Share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ*

*...Develop and nurture God's children into disciples*

*...Provide a place and a program for praising God*

*...Live our lives according to the word, guided by the spirit*

*...Commit to justice for all God's people.*

*Adopted by Session, 2003*

This newsletter is published weekly

Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly

Church dated material, please deliver by 12/12/09

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1162  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Once again** we plan to share Christ's love with our community through our **SOUP KITCHEN CHRISTMAS DINNER**. We hope to open the doors of our 737 Recreation and Community Service building from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Christmas afternoon (Friday, December 25) to feed anyone who would enjoy a Christmas meal. (In the past we have seen between 100 and 150 hungry people enjoy our food and fellowship.)

There are many ways to help:

Cook a turkey or ham at home

Make a green bean casserole at home

Help with final food prep Christmas Day

Help with serving and clean up Christmas Day

The turkeys and hams will be available in the church kitchen on Sunday, December 20. If you are willing to help in any of these areas, please sign up on the Deacon's bulletin board in McLeod Hall.



### December 1 - A Delightful Afternoon!

Almost twenty-five people attended the Holiday Book Review on December 1. Dr. Harvey reviewed four books, two by the same title and author, *The Christmas Sweater* by Glenn Beck, with one for adults and the other for children. The other two titles were: *The True Saint Nicholas -- Why He Matters to Christmas* by William J. Bennett and *The Man Who Invented Christmas -- How Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career And Revived Our Holiday Spirits*. A dessert buffet followed the program.

## Mission Honduras 2009—In Their Own Words

**From June 20-27, 2009 our congregation sponsored a 29 member mission team to the country of Honduras. This group was our church's sixth week-long mission adventure over the past 11 years, in partnership with the churches in the Presbytery of Honduras and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. The generous support of our congregation has made this continuing ministry possible. God is doing marvelous things in the lives of our members and our Honduran Christian brothers and sisters. Here's how Nick Glenn, a member of our congregation, describes the experience:**

Before I went to Honduras, I pictured there to be sad, hungry people walking around a bare city or village with little or nothing to do, not much to be thankful for, and not much to call their own. Part of my vision was correct, but this experience opened my eyes to so much more. Yes, many of the people didn't have jobs, sturdy homes, or much in the way of possessions, but what they did have was a trust in God's love to provide them with everything that they needed. Almost everyone had a smile, from the villages to the capital, no matter what age.

Alex and Noel, our helpers along the journey, were the best that could be imagined. They were not only helpers, but they became close friends during our journey.

When we went to the villages, the people there were so thankful and helpful... we all joined together to get done what needed to be done. It didn't matter what the task was, and even the children would help sometimes. The construction days were the hardest, but we would have never accomplished what we did without the help of our Honduran brothers and sisters in faith.

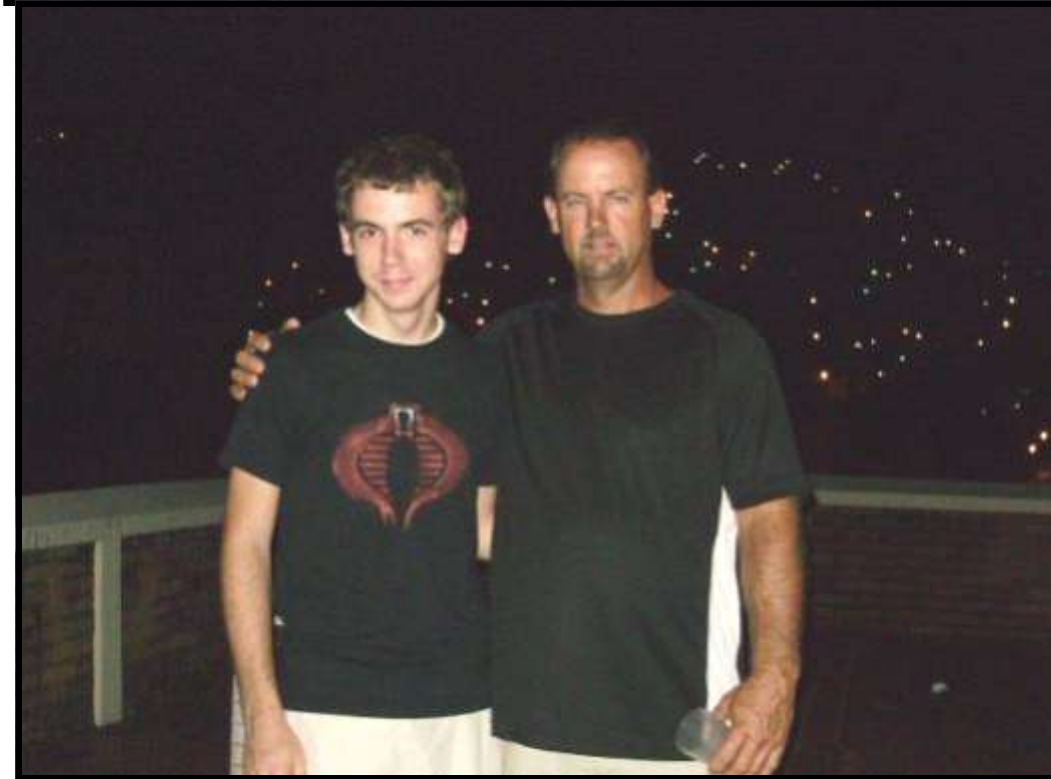
The children in the villages looked as if they were in the happiest times of their lives when they were given the smallest things. Just that it was something to call their own meant so much to them. We would give them simple things like balloons and yarn, or we would do a craft with them. It was as if we had given them a gift of gold, they were so grateful for it.

We had two nights at Pastor Gloria's church. Their songs are ones that we didn't know the words to, or the language, but we didn't need to. It was breathtaking to see the passion that they had to sing and praise God. You could tell that they meant every word of it.

I had never traveled to a place where you couldn't drink the water, or eat the ice in your drinks. I felt privileged to have running water at the hotels considering some villages and families only received water once every 15 days.

The experience in Honduras made me realize that we are more fortunate than we think. Our blessings are abundant! Going to this third world country of faith allowed me to witness this in an eye-opening way. More importantly, what I gave during this trip does not even compare to what I was given in return by the people of Honduras. The lessons that I learned about God's grace, love and compassion will be with me forever. Thank you First Presbyterian Church and Members for allowing me the opportunity to experience this.





# *Come and See What God is Doing*

## **This December at First Presbyterian**

### **Advent Sunday Worship**

November 29—First Sunday in Advent  
December 6—Second Sunday in Advent  
December 13—Third Sunday in Advent  
December 20—Fourth Sunday in Advent  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



### **Advent Weekday Bible Study**

Wednesday, December 2  
Wednesday, December 9  
Wednesday, December 16  
Wednesday, December 23  
11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.  
in the Geneva Room

### **The Festival Music Series**

A Christmas celebration of carols  
Sunday, December 13  
4:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



## Living Nativity Scene

Saturday, December 19 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.  
South Parking Area



## Christmas Eve

“Candlelight Service of Lessons  
& Carols”  
December 24, 5:00 and 9:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sanctuary

## All Church Breakfast

Sunday, December 27  
9:15—10:00 a.m.  
McLeod Hall

