

First Presbyterian Church
5203 Elmira Street
Milton, FL 32570
(850) 623-2510
www.fpcmilton.org

Presby Press

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 2015

OUR MANY BLESSINGS

- The amazing gift of Jesus Christ our savior, whose birth we celebrate this month
- A loving and gracious God who is always there to guide us through any situation
- Willing hearts and hands to do God's work in our church and in our community

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Pen	2
Session Highlights	3
Calendar	4
Lectionary	4

To Be Our Savior

By Dr. Ray Pritchard

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Pause for a moment and consider who was speaking and who was being addressed. When the shepherds heard these words from the angel, they must have been flabbergasted. *We forget that shepherds were near the bottom of the social order of ancient Israel.* They were often poor, uneducated, and quite young. Most people would not pick "shepherd" on their Career Preference Form. There were easier ways to make a living in ancient Israel. So when the angel says, "To you is born," he's really saying, "Christ came for lowly shepherds." But what about those theologians in Jerusalem who knew but didn't care? He came for them too, but they missed it altogether.

When Christ came, his birth was first announced to the outcasts of society. They were the first ones to hear the good news of Christmas. There is a great lesson in this for all of us. Our Lord came for the forgotten people of the earth. Most of the time they are the ones who receive him with the greatest joy. Rich people often have

no time for Christ, but the poor welcome him as an honored guest.

Let me now make a simple application. The angel said, "Unto you is born . . . a Savior." *This is where Christmas becomes intensely personal.* It's not enough to say abstractly that you believe Christ came. Millions of people say that and are still lost in their sins. It's not enough to say that Christ came for someone else.

You can never be saved until you say, "Christ came *for me*. He died *for me*. He rose from the dead *for me*."

He came for you. Do you believe that?

Two thousand years ago God sent a gift wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Jesus is God's Christmas gift to you. *You will never experience Christmas joy until you personally receive God's gift—the Lord Jesus Christ.*

A man traveled a great distance for an interview with a distinguished scholar. He was ushered into the man's study, where he said, "Doctor, I notice that the walls of your study are lined with books from the ceiling to the floor.

(Cont'd on page 3)

Pastor's Pen



Dear Friends!

Advent Season is upon us and in full swing. There is so much that needs to be accomplished before Christmas arrives that, for most of us, our heads are spinning. Take a moment each day and say a prayer of thanks. Make each prayer a different “thank you” to God. This is one small way to fully understand all of the gifts God has given to us. Gifts are a part of Christmas which all began with the Christ child. That beautiful baby that became a beacon of light for all of us. So begin the new Christian year in prayer and in thanks.

Remy and I are so thankful for all of you. The beautiful blanket I received as a Pastor's appreciation gift will be treasured year after year. Its warmth reminds me of the warm welcome we received when we first came to Milton. The bright colors are a reflection of your joy and kindness. To be able to take a part of each of you with me is a true blessing. Thank you for such a meaningful gift.

This coming year, 2016, will be a year of adventure for all of us. Always remember to celebrate your life with Christ and open your heart for whatever gift God has in store for you. As this is my last post, I will close with Romans 12:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ...Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Merry Christmas!

Until our paths cross again, we remain yours in Christ,

Jo and Remy



*“Have I not
commanded you?
Be strong and
courageous. Do not
be terrified; do not
be discouraged, for
the LORD your God
will be with you
wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9*

Session Highlights

November 12, 2015

Your Session held a regularly scheduled meeting in November. Some of the items discussed were:

- Proposed wording for a historic marker to be placed in front of the sanctuary building was discussed and changes were recommended.
- The leaky roof in the side room of the sanctuary was taken care of under warranty. Ceiling repairs still need to be arranged
- Pledges to date for 2016 total \$22,000—far short of the amount needed to cover our proposed budget.
- Donations have been received to cover the postage on the Operation Christmas Child boxes.
- A motion was made and approved to use the money that has been donated for “For The Children” plus the money donated to our local missions fund to purchase three dressers for the three rooms we have sponsored at the children’s home.
- It was recommended that everyone be asked to bring a nonperishable food item for the food bank to first Sunday dinner. Also, congregation members should be encouraged to invite one person to church each week.
- A congregational meeting will be held on November 15 to elect Vaunda Leonard as a new

FPC Milton Monthly Report November 2015		
Average Sunday School Attendance	12	
Average Worship Attendance	24	
	Weekly	Monthly
Budget Requirement ...	\$851.25	\$3,688.77
General Offering:		
November 2015.....	\$3,850.00	
Ahead/Deficit (+/-)	+ \$161.23	

elder.

- Margaret Neustaedter resigned from the session, effective immediately.
- Next session meeting—January 14, 2016. Session training—January 9, 2016.
- Ann Smith was voted in as our new treasurer, effective January 1, 2016.
- Pastor Joann Kublik announced that after much prayer she has decided to resign, effective December 24, 2015.

If you would like to see a full copy of the session minutes from this meeting, please contact our Clerk of Session, Jean Mourey.

To Be Our Savior *(cont'd)*

No doubt you have read them all. I know you have written many yourself. You have traveled extensively, and doubtless you’ve had the privilege of conversing with some of the world’s wisest men. I’ve come a long way to ask you just one question. Tell me, of all you’ve learned, what is the one thing most worth knowing?” Putting his hand on his guest’s shoulder, the scholar replied with emotion in his voice, “My dear sir, of all the things I have learned, only two are

really worth knowing. The first is, I am a great sinner, and the second is, Jesus Christ is a great Savior!”

If you know those two things personally, you know the best news in the whole world; a Savior has been born for you, who is Christ the Lord.

This article was originally published on December 25, 2014 as a blog post on www.crosswalk.com.

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	30		

Schedule of Events

- Dec 1—10:00 am—Bible Study
- Dec 2, 9, & 16—6:30 pm—Open Hearts
- Dec 4 & 5—Holiday Faire
- Dec 6—Communion & Fellowship Luncheon
- Dec 13—Christmas Cantata
- Dec 24—6:00 pm—Candlelight Service
- Dec 25—Merry Christmas!
- Dec 31—New Year's Eve



December Birthdays

- Dec 15—Jimmy Stewart
- Dec 28—Wilburn Christian

Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Dec 6

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

Dec 13

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

Dec 20

Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46-55 or

Psalm 80:1-7
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Dec 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96:1-13
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Dec 25

Christmas Dawn
 Isaiah 62:6-12
 Psalm 97:1-12
 Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm 98:1-9
 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
 John 1:1-14

Dec 27

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52

