

**Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church**  
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at “Coffee Hour” in the  
Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.  
( ✚ Latecomers may be seated.)

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**AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**Christmas Day/Christmas Joy Offering**  
**December 25, 2011 10:30 A.M.**

**THE APPROACH**

PRELUDE *Pastoral Air with Variations* Franz X. A. Murschhauser  
Organ

INTROIT *“Glory to God in the Highest”* Donovan Klotzbeacher  
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Mitchell

Let the earth rejoice;

**Let the many coastlands be glad!**

The heavens proclaim God’s righteousness, and all the peoples behold the glory of the Lord.

**Rejoice in the Lord, and give thanks to his holy name!**

CAROL #22 (Hymnal)\* *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)\*

**Merciful God, we confess that we miss your glory shining all around us. We overlook the good news of great joy brought to us through ordinary people. We ignore the signs of your presence breaking into the world. Forgive us, O God. Forgive our pride; forgive our ignorance. Redeem us, that we might proclaim your glory. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)\*

*“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE\* ✚

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FELLOWSHIP (Please sign the red “friendship pads” found at the end of each pew by the center aisle. Note the names of those worshipping around you as you pass the pad back. We encourage you to greet each other after the service.)

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ✚ Mrs. K

CAROL #38 (Hymnal)\* *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2-7 Peter Miller  
Pew Bible pg. 638

ANTHEM *Carol of the Bells* Ukrainian Carol  
The Chorale

CAROL #53 (Hymnal)\* *“What Child Is This”*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 8-14 Pew Bible pg. 58

SERMON “Christmas from Us to You” Dr. Louis Mitchell

### **THE RESPONSE**

CAROL #28 (Hymnal)\* *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

CAROL #46 (Hymnal)\* *“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”*

### THE GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Offertory *“Jesu Parvule”* Alfred Burt  
The Chorale

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)\* *“Doxology”*  
Prayer of Dedication\*

CAROL #31 (Hymnal)\* *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

BENEDICTION\*

RESPONSE\* *Fourfold Amen in G* Donovan Klotzbeacher  
The Chorale

POSTLUDE\* *“In Dulci Jubilo”* J. S. Bach  
Organ

**\*ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

~~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~~

Activities for Youth Group

- Dec. 25 **Merry Christmas!** Worship at 10:30 a.m., No Sunday School, No Youth Group
- Jan. 1 **Happy New Year!** 10:30 a.m. Worship, No Sunday School, No Youth Group
- Jan. 8 5:30-7 p.m. Epiphany Party! Bring a wrapped \$10 gift for our fun gift exchange in the tradition of a "Yankee swap."
- Jan. 15 6:30-8:30 p.m. Interfaith Community Worship Service celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jan. 22 5:30-7:00 p.m. Youth Group on Friendships
- Jan. 29 5:30-7:00 p.m. Youth Group Service Project

~~ CALENDAR ~~

**December 25, 2011 - January 1, 2012**

<b>Sunday 25</b>	<b>(Christmas/Christmas Joy Offering)</b> NO Christian Education 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour NO Youth Group NO Cranbury Men's Bible Study
<b>Monday 26</b>	<b>CPNS/Church Office Closed</b> 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
<b>Tuesday 27</b>	<b>CPNS Closed</b> <b>Church Office Hours 9a - 12 noon</b> <b>9:00a Bulletin Material Due</b> 9:30a- 12 noon Women's Bible Study-Bell Choir Rm 7:30p Youth Instrumental Ensemble 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
<b>Wednesday 28</b>	<b>CPNS Closed</b> <b>Church Office Hours 9a - 12 noon</b> 7:30p Bell Choir
<b>Thursday 29</b>	<b>CPNS Closed</b> <b>Church Office Hours 9a -12 noon</b>
<b>Friday 30</b>	<b>CPNS Closed</b> <b>Church Office Hours 9a - 12 noon</b> 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
<b>Saturday 31</b>	
<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>(New Year's Day)</b> No Christian Education 10:30a Worship with Communion followed coffee hour 11:45 Library Committee - Library 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom No Youth Group- FH/Kit No Cranbury Men's Bible Study

**Visitors!** We hope you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to one of the greeters or pastors after worship for more information.

**Hearing devices** are now available for your convenience in the narthex. The ushers can assist you.

Our congregation is very happy to have children participate in worship with their family as part of our church family! "Worship bags" containing quiet faith activities are available in the narthex for children to enjoy during worship.

**We thank those who are serving today in these ways:**

**The Flowers** in the chancel today are the beautiful Christmas poinsettias. They have been given to the glory of God in memory, in honor and as a gift of gratitude by many wonderful people. (If you would like a copy of the list, you can pick one up in the Narthex).

**Head Ushers** are Ken Ellsworth and Ginny Swanagan.

**Coffee Hour** is hosted by Peter Miller.

**After Church Greeters** are Paul and Janet Furchak.

**Friends**, as we prepare for worship in this festive season, please be mindful of our neighbors in the pews who are allergic to strong scents and perfumes. We want everyone to be comfortable and healthy as we worship the Lord together! Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

If you have a prayer request, or if you would like to become part of the "chain" of church members who pray daily with and for people with a particular need, please contact the church office at 395-0897.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Church members with special needs:** Marge Bloom; Joan Brown; Martha Davis; John Henzler; Edgar Lawson; Helen Myer; Russ Richardson; Dorothy Swec; Anna Wahler; and Mildred Watts.

**Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked:** Barbara Danser's mother, Evelyn Walton; friend of the church, Barbara Darwin's daughter, Cindy; Joan Fraser's friend, Joyce Stempel; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Bob; Jane Huff's grandson, James Huff-Miller; Joanne Hughes' parents, Cornelius and Bella Tanis; Linda Ill's mother, Carol Scarpone; Carolyn Lee's husband, John; Kathy Mitchell's mother, Marjorie Stewart and daughter, Lindsey; CPNS teacher Sheila Morrissey's sister, Tricia; friend of the church Will Perrine and family due to his daughters' death; friend of the church Sharon Ramkishun's sister-in-law, Michelle and niece, Kaitlyn; Arthur and Gloria-Jean Ryba's brother-in-law, Arthur Sanford; and Dave Stewart's mother, Carolyn Stewart.

**We pray** for all the people who are in need in our wider community and please remember family and friends in our nation's service.

**Prayer Requests in the Bulletin:** In order to keep the prayer request list up to date we will print the names of friends and family of church members who have prayer requests for one month. After that time you may call the church office to have a name reappear on the prayer list.

- Please be sure to sign the "**Pipeline to Session**" cards found in the pews if you have any questions/concerns for the Session. This is a great way to give "kudos" as well!

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## GUATEMALA DINNER FUNDRAISER

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Our **Seventh Annual Gourmet Dinner** to support our Guatemala mission is quickly approaching. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity for church fellowship, entertainment and a delicious meal. There are a limited number of tickets being sold, so buy them today.

We will be serving dinner on Friday, January 20 and on Saturday, January 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with open seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. As you dine on Friday, you will be entertained by our very own Don Klotzbecher and company and on Saturday you will be serenaded by a String and Barbershop Quartet. The cost of the meal will be \$50.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser). You may want to attend both evenings to experience the variety of entertainment being offered. We will be selling only a limited number of tickets, so plan on buying your ticket early. They are on sale now and will be available during coffee hour (see Lil or George Conley) or call the church office or Lil at (609)395-0642.

We are offering a filet mignon, grilled salmon, stuffed chicken or a vegetarian meal as your main entrees along with all the trimmings and a delicious desert to top it off with.

Checks can be made payable to The First Presbyterian Church (tax deductible) memo: Guatemala dinner. Any amount above the \$50.00 fee will be greatly appreciated. Please save this date, we are counting on you for our success in this project.

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### ~~ OUTREACH~~

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**Dinner for Eight:** You have until December 31 to sign-up for dinner with seven other interesting friends. Then the Outreach Committee will put the groups of eight together for dinner sometime in late January. Young and old, singles or couples may sign-up because the intent is to get to know people across ages and interests. The host/hostess will provide the home, entree and beverage; and invite the six other people to provide salad, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. You can sign-up in Fellowship Hall or by calling Marlene French at 609/301-8528.

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### ~~ PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION ~~

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**Reminder:** Annual Reports are due January 9, 2012. Please email them to the church office at [firstpresoffice@comcast.net](mailto:firstpresoffice@comcast.net).

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### ~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

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Thinking of tax efficient ways for year-end giving? Consider the following:

1. Transfer securities, in-kind, to the Church and avoid paying a capital gains tax that could arise from liquidating securities. Suitable for individual stocks, bonds or shares of mutual funds;
2. Consider directing any of your IRA distributions directly to the Church and avoid including the amount of the distribution as taxable income.

Please discuss either of these suggestions with your tax advisor to confirm eligibility to benefit from any tax savings. See Ken Gordon for broker transfer information.

**Counting Teams:** 12/25(Team #2) - 1/1 (Team #3)

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### ~~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~~

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#### FAMILY FUN DAY

**Who?** All 3-Year Olds through 6th Graders and their parents  
**What?** A day for fellowship and giving and fun  
**Why?** To share with parents what we learn in Sunday School and in Vacation Bible School  
**When?** Monday, January 16th from 10 a.m. to Noon - Martin Luther King Day  
**Where?** Fellowship Hall - First Presbyterian Church

**What will we do?** Gather together, make lunch bags for our friends at TASK (Trenton Area Soup Kitchen), play games, and sing a few songs. There will be jobs for the littlest ones (making pretty bags) and the oldest ones (making sandwiches). We will pray together, work together, play together, and sing together!

**What about the under-3's?** Babysitting will be provided. We need you to let us know if you are coming and the age and number of little ones who will need a babysitter. Contact Doris Wiegartner at [doriswieg@aol.com](mailto:doriswieg@aol.com) or (609 395-7099) or Peter Miller at [peter.miller@barrons.com](mailto:peter.miller@barrons.com). Let us know if you are coming even if you don't need a sitter so we can plan accordingly. Let's make this a wonderful day of fun for the whole family!

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### ~~ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ~~

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**Pictorial Directory:** If you did not purchase extra pictures when you took your directory photo, you can pick up your photograph during coffee hour.

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### ~~ CPNS ~~

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Our last day before our Christmas vacation was Thursday. We ended our week with our special Family Christmas Sing-a-long. We hope you had a chance to enjoy it. This week, our teachers will have some time to enjoy the holidays with their own families. We want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

As you begin to research your options for a preschool for your child, please consider CPNS. Please call Janice Parker at 609 655-8663 or e-mail her at [CPNSchool@comcast.net](mailto:CPNSchool@comcast.net) for more information. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about our developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool. We don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to give their children the best and strongest foundation for their child's academic success.

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### ~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

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**Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer:** May your Christmas be both merry and blessed! Quoting from Micah, we read "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord to the house of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths". As we work to "grow" the church of Jesus Christ, what better time to start than the day we celebrate Christ's birth? Let us here in Cranbury start now by making our beautiful sanctuary a wonderful "mountain" where everyone is welcome from birth to death.

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~~ WORSHIP ~~

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Ushers – Please pick up the new 2012 ushering schedule in the Narthex.