

First Presbyterian Church  
721 Church St.  
Jefferson City, TN 37760

## LECTIONARY

### January 2 (2nd Sunday After Christmas Day)

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

### January 6 (Epiphany of the Lord)

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### January 9 (Baptism of the Lord)

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29:1-11  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### January 16 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### January 23 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

### January 30 (4th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15:1-5  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

## *Meetings This Month*



Worship Committee—January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship & Evan.—January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
Session—January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Mission—January 12<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.  
Christian Education—January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### Treasurer's Report December 2010

December 5	\$6,530.00
December 12	\$1,759.00
December 19	\$2,874.00
December 26	\$0,000.00
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,163.00</b>

*A completed report will be available following collection on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.*

*(We need \$16,234.50 to meet the monthly budget.)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Comunion</b> 2</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Betsy Childress</p>						<p> 1</p>
<p><b>Fellowship Sunday</b> 9</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Danny Bates Gail Twine</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Session 6:30 pm. Mission Committee 8 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Doug Moody</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Elison Berryhill David &amp; Melissa Needs</p>
<p>Sunday School 16</p> <p>9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Family Night Supper Annual Meeting of the Corporation 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Vivian Gerber</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>Sunday School 23</p> <p>9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Kay Rutherford-Williams</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CE Committee Mtg. 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan Travis Folsom</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lucille Tinsley</p>
<p>Sunday School 9:30-10:30a.m. <b>30</b> Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Dianne Reagan Carolyn Berryhill</p>	<p>31</p>					

# The Amen Almanac

January 2011

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760

Phone/Fax: 865-475-2761 Dial-A-Devotion 865-475-5152 E-mail: fpcjctn@bellsouth.net

Dr. Robert M. Shurden, Interim Pastor

## From the Interim Pastor's Desk...

The last five months of 2010 have passed in a remarkably short period of time. That has occurred, in part, from the fact that my relationship to this church as interim pastor has increased the activity of this inactive retiree. Also, I am reminded of all the many attempts at ministry that have been occurring among us. December, especially, has been an uplifting experience as we have celebrated the birth of the Christ child. From decorating this marvelous sanctuary with the hanging of the green, preparing our hearts for the occasion with the observance of Advent and the lighting of the candles, and the inspirational service on Christmas Eve we have tried to walk into yuletide with hearts of joy. I pray the year has ended for you on a note of excitement. It has for the Shurdens.

With the beginning of another year we are faced with how we will attempt to give life a fresh breath of newness. What lifestyle will we embrace? Will anything change about the way we view Christ, the church, ourselves and one another? The late Dag Hammarskjold issued a challenging admonition that might be posted on our hearts as we engage a new year.

Hammarskjold of Sweden served as Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1953 through 1961. In 1961 this fifty-six year-old peace maker lost his life in a plane crash while on a mission to negotiate a cease fire between warring factions of the world. Prior to his death he had read widely in literature and philosophy and had maintained a personal diary of his fears, faith, and hope. The diary was originally published in Sweden and later translated into English with the title, Markings. In that journal, he penned the following words in 1953: "Night is drawing nigh. For all that has been, Thanks! To all that shall be, Yes! (p.89). I think his words are relevant whether we face night or day.

For all that has been, thanks. My hope is that our lives will be marked by gratitude for the labor and sacrifice of others and for the good that can always be found surrounding our hurt. To all that shall be, yes. My hope is that our lives will be marked by an affirmation of the traditions of love, grace, and mercy that characterized the person of Christ. We would do well as we take on a new year if we remember the advice we all received years ago, "Look both ways before crossing the street." For all that has been, thanks; to all that shall be, yes! Happy New Year.

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT

On February 4, 1968, exactly two months before Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he delivered his last sermon at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. In it, he described his preferences for his own funeral. He didn't want people to mention his Nobel Peace Prize, his other awards or where he went to school; none of that was important, he said. Instead, he wanted his eulogist to say King "tried to give his life serving others" and "tried to love somebody."

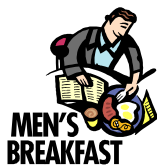
In that sermon, King also said "everybody can serve," regardless of background or educational level. The only requirements, he said, were "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."



Happy New Year!

## SECRET SAINTS

Everyone in the church family is invited to play "Secret Saints" during the month of February. All those wishing to participate should place their name in the designated box located in the library (one for the adult to adult exchange, and one for the children to children exchange). After church on January 30<sup>th</sup> you will draw a name out. This person will be your Secret Saint for whom you will do many nice things anonymously during the month. On the last Sunday in February you may reveal yourself as Secret Saint. Join the fun – put your name in today!



## MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next breakfast for the men in our church family is scheduled for Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Our January Family Night Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program will feature the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will hear reports on church programs and activities for the year just past, as well as plans for the new year. Bring a dish and join us!



## NEW ADDRESSES

Ben and Cindy Deaton  
304 Tamassee Drive  
Clemson, SC 29631

David and Linda Noonkesser  
215 Greenbriar Rd.  
Talbott, TN 37877

Home #: 423-839-1183

## THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF!!

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone in the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. We are touched by your thoughtfulness and extremely appreciative. Thank you!! We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

—Bob, Heather, Angie and Joey



Family and Friends who are serving in the Military:

Spec. Taylor Belton  
Bravo 3-2, ADA  
APO, AE 09853

Col. Martha Sanders  
99-1440 Aiea Heights Dr.  
#22  
Aiea, HI 93701-2904

Major Michael Stinnett  
9 Lost Valley Dr.  
Huntington, WV 25705

Major Chris Hornburg  
25617 Creek Run Terrace  
South Riding, VA 20152

Major Kevin Hornburg  
Major Amy Carpenter  
111 Grandview Dr.  
Hampton, VA 23664

Randy White  
Stationed in Afghanistan

Mathew Goodrich  
SOTF TARIN KOWT  
APO AE 09380

If you have a family member or friend who is serving in the Armed Forces, please let us know so that we can add them to our list.

## SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

Someone, feeling spiritually unfed, wrote a letter to a newspaper, saying that after some 30 years of attending church, he couldn't remember one sermon. The letter writer said he'd probably wasted his time, and preachers were wasting theirs, as well.

A few days later, someone else wrote a rebuttal. This writer said he'd been married for 30 years but couldn't recall the entire menu of any one of the thousands of meals his wife had fixed. Yet he knew those meals were nourishing and gave him strength to do his work. He also said that without eating those meals, his body would have been long dead. Without going to worship, he added, he'd be spiritually dead, too.

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." —John Ruskin

"Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength." —John Henry Jowett

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you requested Offering Envelopes they are located on the table in the back hallway. Please note that in order to save money and not be wasteful we are using old envelopes. They may not carry your correct envelope number, but please be assured that your offering will be deposited correctly. If you have any questions, please call Heather in the Office at 475-2761.



## January 2011 Ushers, Greeters, Nursery and Breakfast Schedule

### January 2

Ushers — David Noonkesser and Charlie Piper  
Greeters — Mike and Pam Kustermann  
Nursery — Bili Ledgerwood

### January 9

Ushers — Dick Gombert and John Zirkle  
Greeters — Bili Ledgerwood and Vivian Gerber  
Nursery — Suzanne Fearnside

### January 16

Ushers — Pat and Mary Ellen Patton  
Greeters — Charlie and Sara Piper  
Nursery — Dianne Reagan

### January 23

Ushers — John and Debby Rinehart  
Greeters — Terry and Sandy Jaros  
Nursery — Bili Ledgerwood

### January 30

Ushers — J Moser and Jake Moser  
Greeters — Linda Eisenhour and Frances Wolf  
Nursery — Suzanne Fearnside



**ELDERTORIAL**  
**DEBORAH SCARLETT**

The Epiphany

He awoke to the blue-black cold of New Year's morning. Even the dangling light bulb seemed to think it was too cold or too early to be up as it flickered unreliably before it made a florescent glow in the small bathroom. He half smiled half grimaced conspiratorially at the cracked shaving mirror that hung on the tile bare wall. The room's aesthetic appearance or lack of was what made the room his own. It wasn't really a room, more like a closet, but no one used it in its current state, except himself. He purposely and continually delayed the remodeling. The room was his possession of space, and he didn't even have to fight for it. It was always empty.

He leaned in over the faucets, hoping for hot water, while he considered the present holiday. He realized he had seen at least 5 decades of new years'. Preparing to shave, his mind fingered through past resolutions that he had made and kept... or not. His mind flooded with years of: lost weight, invested money, given money, saved money, years of accumulating things he needed or wanted. As he pulled his skin tight for the first swipe of the razor, he thought with pride about his achievement of personal mastery and even physical mastery, if you counted whitening your teeth and wearing trendier clothes in the early 90ties.

He tapped the razor on the side of the sink, vaguely noticing that the skin around the jowl line sagged slightly when released from the pull of the blade. He sighed, turned and leaned toward the mirror, starting the process on the opposite cheek and neck. He had always been a man of pray, usually right here in this space; just God, himself the light bulb and the mirror. He straightened, looked directly at his reflection and towed dry. The reflection mirrored things he already knew; resolutions, advice, want too's... never lasted. This year he would make a permanent commitment to something. But what? Know one knew better than he that he was forever humanly flawed. And his age graced him with the understanding knowledge that "permanent" was like forever; a very long time to stay hitch to something. He sighed again, as he stared at the mirror. What purposeful thing might he do that wouldn't become old or out-dated, a burden, or another thing he either mastered or failed? Of course, there was always the option of doing nothing. He had done that more than once in his fifty odd years. It had been as hollow and purposeless as his other pursuits.

There was this one thought he had; it came from something he had read in scripture. "Turn back one more time". That was it. Turn back. The words, when read slowly, processed and handled in his mind, had captured him. Turn...back...one...more...time.

He thought about his relationships: wife, children, in-laws, parents, even business relationships, social relationships, church relationships. Turn back. He looked into the eyes of the mirror. What did that mean? Turn back? Did it mean it would not end with him? Nothing... would end with him? *He* would not be the one to end it? Did it mean *he* would extend a hand first? Hold the embrace longer? Stand still and listen until the last one spoke? Did it mean that whatever the situation was *he*

would not burn the bridge? The tension in his shoulders released he rolled them back and stood straight. He could do that. It didn't mean he wouldn't lose his temper, become frustrated, hurt, angry, sad, or afraid. It just meant it couldn't end with him. All he would have to do is turn back one more time. Be there, in the moment. Wait and not leave. It did not require flowery words or advice or wisdom just the **will** to turn back. He wiped the residue of water off the lip of the sink, tossed the towel in the direction of the tub, and groped the wall for the light switch. Right before the bulb went dead, the man turned back to the mirror and mumbled; let it be me Lord, let it start with me, let us begin.

**IN MEMORIAM...**

*Dorothy Johnson*

Memorial given by:  
Harry and Judy Finley

*Betsy Forney*

Memorial given by:  
John and Debby Rinehart  
Harold and Maureen Hick  
Jane Albright  
ME Thorne  
Nancy Love  
BJ Ramsey  
Gladys Irvin

Walter and Martha Hawk  
Merrill and Carole Seggerman  
J and Susan Moser  
Charlie and Sara Piper  
Mary and Kenneth Winslow  
Davis and Norma Richardson  
Harry and Judy Finley

*Betty Fulweiler*

Memorial given by:  
Harry and Judy Finley



**BRAND NEW**

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have — these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown

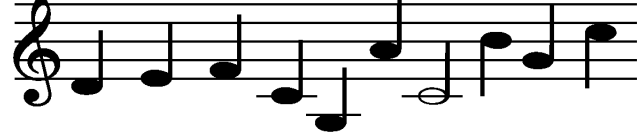
# Just for KIDS

## Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

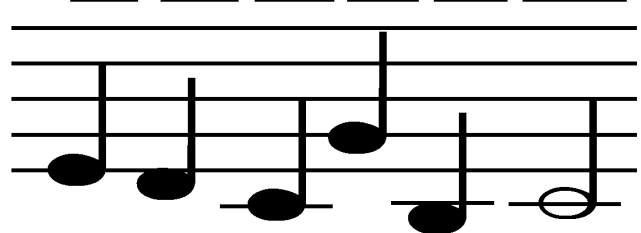
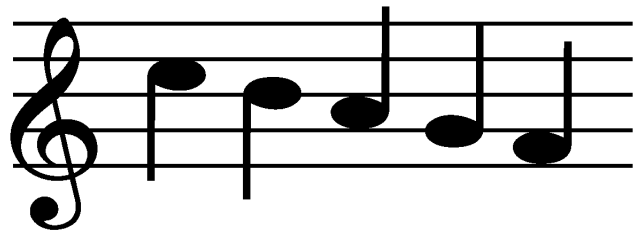
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful Lord songs the with Worship



\* \* \* \* \*

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ;



Answer: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

# Just for KIDS

## From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good   | Righteousness |
| 2. Death  | Children      |
| 3. Go     | Life          |
| 4. Evil   | Come          |
| 5. Adults | Bad           |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

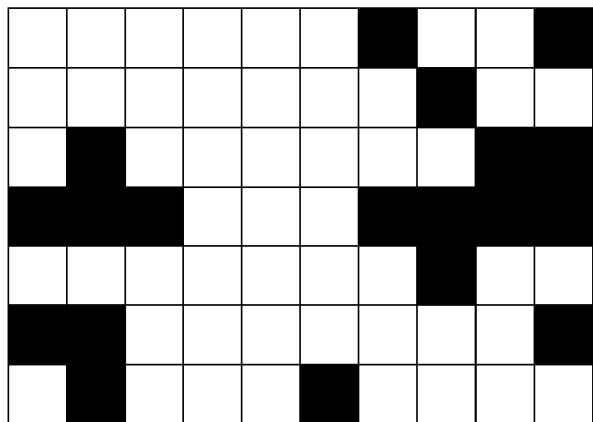
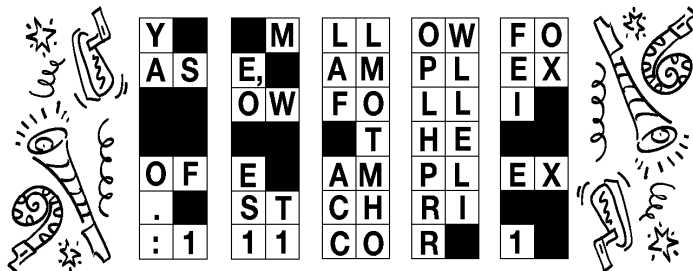
Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

# Just for KIDS

## CHARACTER THAT PLEAS

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.



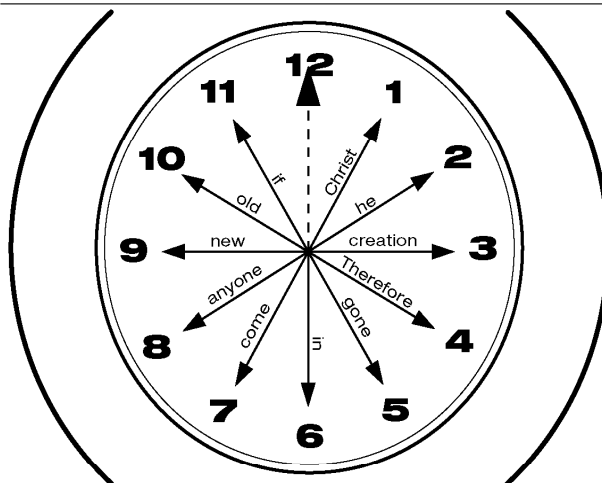
Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

# Just for KIDS

## IN WITH THE NEW

It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



"\_\_\_\_\_, is \_\_\_\_\_, is a \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"