



**The First Presbyterian Church
372 Bee Tree Road
Swannanoa, NC 28778**

(828) 686-3140

www.swannanoapres.org

First Presbyterian Church

Morning Worship

11:00 a.m.

January 8, 2012

“Witnessing to Jesus Christ in our being, doing, and telling!”

Baptism of the Lord We Gather Before God

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Jay Plumb

Call to Worship

Sing and bless God's name;

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

Proclaim God's glory to the nations,

God's glorious deeds to all people.

Praise the Lord!

Praise his holy name!

Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

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.

* Hymn: “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee” Blue Hymnal #377

* Call to Confession

In humility and faith, let us confess our sin to God.

* Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from sisters and brothers in Christ. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another; we allow the past to hold us hostage. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you make in baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. (Time for Silent Reflection)

* Declaration of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is forever. I proclaim to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who frees you from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Gloria Patri ***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; #579***
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Word Proclaimed

Children's Sermon

Special Music

Prayers of the People

* Hymn: "In the Bleak Midwinter" Blue Hymnal #36

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 1-4

NT– p. 42

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Epiphany, Baptism, Spirit"

Rev. Alex McLean

Moment of Silence for Reflection

Our Thankful Response

**Affirmation of Faith: (from the Book of Common Worship)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angles, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Prayer and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory Music

Jay Plumb

* Doxology

#592

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Blue Hymnal #309

* Charge and Benediction

The congregation is invited to please stay seated for the postlude

Postlude

Jay Plumb

* All who are able, please stand.

Calendar for the Week

- January 9** Presbyterian Women meet at the church, Claudia Ellithorpe as hostess.
After school program resumes, 4:00 p.m.
- January 11** Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.
- January 14** Monthly Meeting at Ingles' Cafe

Upcoming Events

- January 16** Session Meeting
- January 22** Congregational Meeting on church finances
- January 25** Counselor Ellen Begley, 5:30 p.m.
- January 29** Rev. James Aydelotte, guest speaker on the New Form of Government
- February 5** Souper Bowl of Caring, Please bring canned goods or a donation

“John, the epitome of the prophets, also points forward to God's imminent intervention into human history to confer a new hope to humanity. Into the wilderness of our own broken lives and our own bleeding world erupts the promise of a baptism of new life.”

--Lee Barrett, Daily Feast

Welcome to our Guests! We are delighted to have you worship with us today. Please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad found on the aisle end of the pew. If you are a first-time guest, please jot down your mailing address and phone number and put the sheet in the collection tray. Plan to stay a few minutes after service for a time of fellowship in the narthex, so we can welcome you in person.

A nursery is available for infants and children, 5 and under, during the worship service. Some children stay until after the Children's Sermon, then go to the nursery.

The Presbyterian Women will meet at the church tomorrow for their monthly meeting. Claudia Ellithorpe is hostess.

The after school program resumes tomorrow at 4 p.m.

On Saturday, we will have our monthly meeting at Ingles' Cafe. Come join us for coffee and fellowship!

On January 16th, we will hold our monthly session meeting.

On January 22nd, the First Presbyterian Church of Swannanoa is holding a congregational meeting to go over the finances of the church, looking at last year's expenditures, and informing the congregation of this year's budget.

On Wednesday January 25th at 5:30 p.m., Counselor Ellen Begley will present a talk as part of our mental health and faith seminar. We hope you can attend.

On January 29th, Rev. James Aydelotte will be our guest offering a talk after service and a pot-luck lunch on the New Form of Government. This is our officer training for 2012.

Starting in January 2012, the church is encouraging everyone to read the Bible in a year. We have special booklets to help with this. Please contact Rev. Alex or Lynn Holman for more information.

The **Souper Bowl of Caring** will be held on February 5th, Superbowl Sunday. Please bring canned goods or a donation for this project.

Congregational Concerns:

Please pray for: Betsy Bullins, Liz Laufman, Donald, Stephen McLeod, for those in families, and those living alone.

Those with ongoing health problems: Susan Burnette, Frieda Chance

Homebound: Helen Adwin, Frances Campfield, Bud Duncan, Marie Parks

Service Men and Women and Veterans: Doran Heck, Robby Ballard

Overseas Connections: Barbara Nagy, Rev. Becca Young, Bethlehem Church in Guatemala, the Learning Center in Mwandu, Presbyterian churches and all churches around the world.

Prayer Cards are available in the narthex, if you would like someone prayed for.

The Presbytery prayer calendar asks us to pray:

Long Creek (701 Long Creek Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086)