



The Scroll

As faithful followers of Jesus Christ our mission is:
"To Proclaim His Gospel,
To Pray and study His
Word, To Share His love
with others.

December 2011
www.sjaxpc.org



Children's Pageant
December 11
@ 11 am
Combined Worship Service

Lessons & Carols
December 18 @ 11am

Christmas Eve Worship
2 services

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Family Service
@ 5pm

Candlelight Service @
7:30pm with Communion

Sunday, January 1
Combined Service @11 am

Wholly Wednesday
Resumes Wednesday
January 4—Dinner @ 5pm
Adult & Youth Education at 6pm



Happy Birthday Jesus



Pastor's
Christmas
Message

We live in troubled times.

We live in a time when our confidence in the institutions that shape our lives has been shaken. Too many families are crumbling under the stress of forces that are beyond their control. In any conversation about government, there is an inescapable tone of cynicism. It is hard to have hope in government, for the government has proven that it cannot save us.

There are some who still look to corporate America to be our savior, but the economy is working for fewer and fewer among us. We are increasingly surrounded by those who are financially stressed. Even some with work cannot make a living.

Over the past generation, the church has also forfeited her moral credibility. A generation ago, mainline churches like ours were a shaping voice in our culture. But since then, the mainline has all but self-destructed; we have been so focused on qualifications for leadership that we have ceased to be leaders.

Cynicism is the tone of our time. Ideology has overtaken reason. Care for "me" has overtaken responsibility for the common good. We live in times where it seems like someone opened the door and all the adults left the room.

Which is why I am so hopeful. For into a similar dark world 2000 years ago, God gave us Jesus in Bethlehem. Born into a world of cruel and petty kings, oppressive taxation, and unmitigated violence, the new human being, Jesus, comes, showing us the way to life in this world and beyond. So take heart, be of good cheer, for the One who is to overcome the world is coming into the world. Happy Advent and Christmas!

Peace!
Vince

Happy Birthday

From the Desk of the Associate Pastor:

And did it happen?

*And did it happen
that in a stable long ago,
a weary couple,
who no one wanted to know,
should choose a manger,
in spite of the danger,
to hold and hallow the Lord below?*

*And did it happen
that in the stillness of the night,
the woman labored
to let God see the light,
and bathed and dressed him,
breastfed and blessed him,
the Word incarnate whose time was right?*

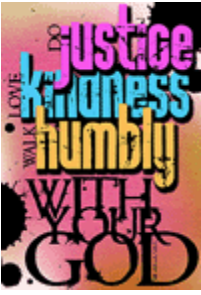
*And did it happen
that news of this first reached the poor,
compelled by angels
to tiptoe to the door
and to see the trappings,
just linen wrappings,
a baby for certain and God for sure?*

*And did it happen
that all of this was meant to be,
that God from distance
should chose to be set free
and show uniqueness
transformed in weakness,
that I might touch him and he touch me?
(from the Iona Community)*

In this season of expectant waiting, let us remember the One who, in all power and majesty and might, chose to break into the world and indeed into our lives in the form of an innocent baby. What a paradox for us to ponder throughout this Advent season. Thanks be to God for the gift of the Son, our Lord!

*Soli Deo Gloria,
Susan*

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Molly Browning | 20 Jaeger Smith |
| 02 Will Morgan | 20 Myles Johnson |
| 03 Patrick Kenning | 20 Casey King |
| 03 Sam DeMotte | 21 Andrew Lopez |
| 04 Craig Johnson | 21 Lyn McAuley |
| 04 Reid McAuley | 22 Brookie Brown |
| 05 Barbi Smith | 22 Bev Quine |
| 06 Bubbles Campbell | 22 Cheryl Dore |
| 07 Jan Waggoner | 23 Ian Mortimer |
| 07 Conrad Ussery | 23 Alex Leuthold |
| 09 Barbara Cathey | 26 Earl McCabe |
| 09 Bill Larson | 26 Roger Flythe |
| 10 Merry Carol Duce | 26 Ellen Reid |
| 10 Griffin Lyon | 27 Christina Lopez |
| 10 Ann Harrell | 28 Liz Leuthold |
| 12 Riley Slay | 28 Jean Waters |
| 12 Barbara Griffin | 28 Virginia Jenkins |
| 13 Margaret Davis | 30 Grace Pill |
| 14 Elizabeth McClure | 30 Sue Davis |
| 14 Hays Lewallen | |
| 15 Waverly Fant | |
| 15 Bob Sandlin | |
| 15 Mary E. Albertson | |
| 17 Caroline Harrell | |
| 17 Jason Lee | |
| 17 Lorin Mock | |
| 18 Justin Ellis | |
| 18 Steve Powers | |




Our Justice Ministry

On November 8, 471 leaders from 30 congregations in the Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation, and Empowerment gathered at Mandarin United Methodist Church. At this Community Problems Assembly, testimonials regarding the community problems of jobs, health care, and housing were heard. With 321 votes cast, the Assembly voted to research the issue of jobs. An action to make a just action for change in the area of jobs will be presented at the Nehemiah Assembly on April 23, 2012.

36 of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church's Justice Ministry Network members were present and all voted to work on the issue of jobs. In addition to the issue of jobs, the Coalition will continue to work for broader, community-wide solutions to the ongoing problems of homelessness, education, and restorative justice.

Thanks in part to the large Assembly, and the attention of the Florida Times Union, Mayor Alvin Brown finally responded to repeated entreaties from the Homeless committee to sit down and get to work on this problem that he promised to tackle when he attended last year's Nehemiah Assembly. The power of numbers in our Coalition is getting the attention of our public officials!

Would you like to help us get the Mayor's attention about the needs of the homeless? Would you like to see the 30,000 children in Duval Public Schools that are reading below grade level succeed and graduate from high school? Do you want to restore first time juvenile offenders to responsible citizenship instead of mixing them in with hardened criminals in our penal system? If you would like to see these just changes for the better in our community, you can help by becoming a Justice Ministry Network member! Talk to Mitch Turknett, Allan Clark, Sandra Wallace, Lynne Kirk, Marcia Doby, Mal Redington, Lani Redington, Edie Palmer, Vince Kolb, or Judy Lothman. They can tell you how!

| MONTHLY OCTOBER |  BUDGET REPORT | | YTD | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Actual | Budget |
| Pledges | \$ 37,733 | \$ 46,900 | \$ 509,648 | \$ 542,700 |
| Other Income | \$ 13,033 | \$ 9,385 | \$ 103,910 | \$ 93,841 |
| Expenses | <u>\$ 71,299</u> | <u>\$ 65,967</u> | <u>\$ 656,053</u> | <u>\$ 661,941</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | <u>(\$ 20,533)</u> | <u>(\$ 9,682)</u> | <u>(\$ 42,495)</u> | <u>(\$ 25,400)</u> |

WHAT IS THE PASTOR READING?

This Odd and Wondrous Calling
by Lillian Daniel and Martin Copenhaver

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr

Are you growing as a Christian? The way to grow in Christ is to read and study! Find a great book in our church library or find one of these books and have a conversation with Pastor Vince about it!



Pledge Update

At our last count, we had ***\$585,125 in pledges towards our 2012 Pledge Campaign***. Thanks so much for your faithfulness in giving to South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

If you haven't made a pledge for 2012, or can't pledge for 2012 please e-mail or phone Alice Rockliffe at alice.rockliffe@sjaxpc.org or (904) 396-0567 extension 11.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee

*South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church
2137 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-3389*

December 2011

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Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

— 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV