

THE GOOD NEWS

DECEMBER 2009

Faith United Methodist Church
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From Advent to Christmas: Come, Lord Jesus!

On a recent trip to the library with my grandson, Colin, he picked out several books including a comic-book type novel that read from back to front. While the characters and basic plot were familiar to him, they weren't to me. So I just couldn't figure out how to decipher the pages crammed with text and pictures. Should I start at the bottom of the page and read to the top? Or start at the top, read to the bottom, then move back a page?

Each year, on the first Sunday of Advent, the appointed Scripture readings for the day remind us that Christ will come again. We begin Advent by looking ahead to the Return and Reign of Christ, then looking back to the messengers (like John the Baptist) who prepared the way, then backing up again, to the conception of Jesus Christ, then moving forward to his birth.

The season of Advent (a Latin word for coming) is a time of watching, waiting, and preparation as we in the church prepare our hearts to welcome Christ. But, wait—hasn't Christ already come? Well, yes. But as a people who know "the rest of the story" we know that not only was Jesus born, he died for us and rose again. That's what we affirm every Communion Sunday as we proclaim the mystery of faith: "Christ has died; Christ is Risen; Christ will come again."

Why in the world does the church spend time doing this forward and back dance each Advent? Taylor Burton-Edwards, Director of Worship Resources for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, describes it this way:

"By starting at the end and then unfolding the fulfillment of promises that lead toward it, Advent invites us into a different story of time and history than that of North American culture's version of December, 'Christmastime' [which] bids us into the sweep of shopping malls, online retailers and parties, calls us into the drowse of manufactured memories of the perfect bliss of a snowy winter's day, and seduces us to break our bank accounts to purchase more and more new things. Advent places us into the sweep of the Eternal One breaking into history, awakens us to the radical disjuncture between God's dream for creation and the mess we have made of it, and challenges us to join God's mission to make all things new."

So, does this mean we throw out the cocoa, skip the office party, and turn off "It's a Wonderful Life"? Of course not. But by remembering what Advent is all about and taking time to prepare our hearts and minds, we can celebrate Christmas with true joy—the joy of knowing "the reason for the season" that comes to us in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I hope to see you at Faith in the coming weeks as celebrate the hope and joy of Advent and Christmas, and may you enjoy a blessing-filled Advent and a joyous Christmas! Come, Lord Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Kathryn T. Woodrow



Online Resource to Help With Grieving

Lisa Cole, daughter of Kay Cary and the late George Cary, created **JournEaseOnline.com**, a web site resource with music and other worship items for those experiencing grief or loss. It is a great resource for caregivers, hospice workers, and loved ones of those facing the end of life.

Lisa says on her website: "The night my father died, we gathered around his bedside and played and sang his favorite hymns. Our hospice nurse explained that hearing is the last sense to leave a dying person, and that she believed he could hear and process the music, even

though he was "non-responsive." The next day, after he had passed away later that evening, the nurse called to see how I was doing, and shared that she thought the music had been a wonderful gift to my dad on his final journey home. She remarked that she wished every family had an opportunity to do that for their loved one. Out of that conversation, this music was born."

December Worship

Sunday, December 6th

Second Sunday in Advent

- Rev. Kathryn Woodrow preaching
- Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 13th

Third Sunday in Advent

- Rev. Kathryn Woodrow preaching
- Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 20th

Fourth Sunday in Advent

- Rev. Corey Sharpe preaching
- Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Sunday, December 27th

First Sunday After Christmas Day

- We will have only one service at 9:30am. No adult Sunday school classes.
- Rev. Corey Sharpe preaching
- Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th

- Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

5:30pm: Service of Las Posadas (Shelter For the Holy Family)

- Rev. Corey Sharpe preaching
- This family-friendly interactive service is adapted from a Mexican tradition and symbolizes the trials which Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay where Jesus could be born.

8:30pm: Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight

- Rev. Kathryn Woodrow preaching
- Music by Chancel Choir, Bells of Faith, and M Street Brass Quintet



Silent Night, Holy Night

Kaleidoscope Music Concert

Featuring the Music Ministries
of Faith Church

December 11th, 7:00pm

The M Street Brass Quintet and Music Ministries of Faith present a Kaleidoscope of Advent and Christmas music on **Friday, December 11th at 7:00pm.**

Join in singing favorite Christmas carols of the season, accompanied by choirs, organ, and brass. Hear children of all ages singing and bells ringing to prepare your hearts and minds for the joys of the season.

The program is free and open to all. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.



Music of
the Season

Christmas Organ Concert

International Concert Organist,
Carlo Curley

December 4th, 8:00pm

International Concert Organist Carlo Curley comes to Faith UMC to present a program of seasonal favorites on

Friday, December 4th at 8:00pm.

The program is sponsored by Jordan Kitts Music Company and features the Allen digital / pipe organ at Faith.

All are invited to attend this free evening of music. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

I Shop, Therefore I Am

A Book Review by Rev. Corey Sharpe

I Want That! How We All Became Shoppers by Thomas Hine

The automated supermarket checkout line may represent the state-of-the-art in commercial salesmanship and consumer psychology, but where did the idea of shopping really come from? In a society where toddlers are encouraged to pay for their own candy, most of us cannot remember a time when we didn't shop. Exchanging money for goods is as natural as breathing.



the contemporary expression of our complex relationship to things." He argues that we spend much of our lives in what he calls the "buyosphere," a place of possibilities where we can imagine our lives differently and choose who we will be, what we will wear, what objects will furnish our homes, what class we identify with and belong to.

Thomas Hine's *I Want That! How We All Became Shoppers* (New York: HarperCollins, 2002) reminds us that in order to understand the present we have to understand the past. His book is an excellent case study in cultural history that examines how people throughout time have acquired objects, a survey that includes everything from medieval fairs to Priceline.com.

Hine is at his best discussing why people shop: "Shopping is

Shopping is literally an "objectification" of what it means to be human. Each of Hine's chapters focuses on a force that drives us to shop: power, responsibility, self-expression, belonging, celebration, convenience, etc. We learn that the concept of taste "is based on the idea that objects have meaning, and that people who share the taste can agree on the meaning" (144). So, this Christmas, be careful what you pick up in the checkout line—"By the choices you make...you tell the world who you are" (66).

Youth Christmas Project is Here!

Through December 13



Our fundraising efforts will go to support various projects of Community Ministries of Rockville, such as:

The Latino Outreach Project provides free English as Second Language classes at local elementary schools for Hispanic adults seeking to learn or improve their English skills. They also provide childcare and tutoring for children while their parents are in class. Your

donations will help us throw a Christmas party for the children at one of these locations.

Housing Programs, like Hope Housing and Chase Partnership House, provide the homeless with safe affordable living environments to help them address their homelessness and the reasons that precipitated their situation. Your donations will provide food cards for these clients.

REAP, or the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program, helps poor individuals and families avoid losing basic necessities like housing, utilities, health care, and food. Your donations will provide food cards for these clients.

Elderly Ministries provides a wide range of goods and services to senior and disabled adults. Your donations will provide food cards for these clients.

To make a donation, look for the youth at the project table in the Fellowship Hall OR drop your donation in the Offering Plate with "Youth Christmas Project" in the memo field of your check. The youth have already purchased the toys for the Latino Outreach Project. They also will be purchasing gift cards and food cards, and will run one of the Christmas parties at Rockville United Church.



Our 2010 stewardship effort is off and running. To date, we've received 110 pledges totaling over \$402,000 and over 50 time and talent surveys. While this is a great start, we need everyone's participation if we hope to grow the ministries of the church next year.



If you have not yet had a chance to complete your Commitment Card and/or Time & Talent Survey, extra copies are available in the pews. Completed cards and surveys can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your faithful support!

Year-End Stock Donation

If you are planning to donate any stock to the church this year, please contact your agent and give the church agent's telephone number (301-657-6300) and DTC number (0418) for a stock transfer. Also, please alert the church office that you are making a stock donation. Be sure to do this in time to be credited for this calendar year.



The Writing Group

The Writing Group meets Thursdays at 1:30pm in Room 200. All are welcome to join or drop in. Questions? Contact Anne Sadler at 301-762-6699.



- Birthday Blessings*
- Dec 1: Jim Sadler
 - Dec 2: Laurie Halverson
 - Dec 4: Jim Guthrie
 - Dec 6: Sean Ramsperger

- Dec 7: Edith Erzen
- Dec 8: Kay Cary
- Dec 10: Kathryn Holden, Marti Phillips-Patrick
- Dec 11: Kaitlyn Gautreaux, Kehinde Mbanefo
- Dec 13: Caroline Lew, Bruce Matter
- Dec 14: Paige Harbison, Barrie Keene-Buckley, Jessica McGinnis
- Dec 15: Jason Spriggs
- Dec 16: Scott Haass
- Dec 18: Jennifer Sevier
- Dec 19: Aaron Maas, Tom St. Clair, Louise Wright
- Dec 21: Oksana Mitchell, Ryan Wright
- Dec 23: Carol Augustino
- Dec 24: Betty Lowe
- Dec 25: Christine Hellauer
- Dec 26: George Graves Jr.
- Dec 28: Sydnie Clark, Elizabeth Woodward, Sarah Woodward

Faith Card Ministry

Do you like to receive personal notes and greeting cards rather than junk mail? The Faith Card Ministry has been sending cards to our prayer list for almost four years.



We need more volunteers to fill-in the 12 months of the year. Each volunteer takes a month to serve. Bought or crafted cards are well received! If you have an interest in covering a month, please contact Carol Dismukes at 301-762-5054.

Pacesetters Annual Dinner

January 9th, 5:30pm



Faith Church's Couples and Singles Group, the Pacesetters, will gather on Saturday, January 9th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for its annual reorganization potluck dinner & meeting.

Those in attendance will be randomly assigned to a small group which will meet monthly to enjoy each other's company while attending a movie, show, concert or sporting event; having a potluck dinner or picnic, or going to a restaurant; enjoying an informal get-together at one of the members' homes or participating in another fun activity. The whole purpose is to have fun and fellowship with other members of Faith Church.

If you are interested or would like more information contact Marion Caldwell at 301-977-6093.



- Dec 5: Don & Maggie Hadley; Jere & Sylvia Medlin
- Dec 9: Gerry & Pat Tomlin
- Dec 20: George & Nancy Schaffner
- Dec 26: Stan & Erna Benjamin

- Dec 27: Chip & Bridget Buel
- Dec 29: Tim & Connie Burke; Larry & Mary Jane Wolcott



Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Tim Evans and Sara Romeyn, on the death of Tim's father, Bill, on Wednesday, November 4.

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Virginia and Bruce McDowell, on the death of Virginia's father, Lorenzo Butts, on November 2.

- Dec 29: Chuck Taylor
- Dec 31: Ronald Kessler, Russ Kirkman

Advent Workshop & Luncheon

December 6th, 12:00pm

All ages are welcome to participate in our annual Advent Workshop, featuring lunch followed by the making of Gingerbread Houses. You can decorate a house for yourself or for a shut-in. Cost is \$15 per house.



We need volunteers. Please contact Gina Dawson at ginad@faithworkshere.com or 301-881-1881, x2250 to sign up for one of these positions:

- Build gingerbread houses on the late afternoon/evening of December 5th.
- Take care of the lunch and/or provide food/drinks.
- Setup and/or cleanup of Fellowship Hall.
- Delivery of shut-in houses.

The Jingle Bus is Coming!

December 21st & 22nd, 6:30-8:30pm



The Jingle Bus will be making its annual runs on Monday, December 21st and Tuesday, December 22nd. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:30pm and will return no later than 8:30pm.

CAROLING

Each night we will travel in the church bus to sing and spread Christmas cheer to church families and friends in neighborhoods near the church.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour or contact Jan Spencer in the Church Office to make your reservation (jspencer@faithworkshere.com or 301-881-1881). Space is limited so reserve early!



Staff Christmas Gift

At Faith Church we have a tradition of giving a monetary gift of support as a year-end Christmas present to our staff who have inspired us from the pulpit and done so much behind the scenes. Please mail a check to the church office or place a gift in the offering plated marked "Staff Gift" by Sunday, December 20 as your gift of gratitude to those who give us so much Christian service throughout the year. *SPRC*

Pumpkin Patch Results... Thank You!



The Pumpkin Patch was a huge success. We met our neighbors, had the patch painted by a holocaust survivor, and I am sure some of you worked with people from the congregation that you did not know. We sold over \$6,000 of pumpkins! Our mission included giving 75% back to the Indian Reservation that supplies the pumpkins. After expenses, we earned a net of \$1,409.50. The Faith Mission Committee will distribute the

money to local, national, and international mission projects. You made a difference!

Thank you, thank you, thank you! The process of planning the patch began after last year's sales were reported and continued until the close of the patch on October 31st.

There was a small sub-committee that worked very hard at making the pumpkin patch a place where all wanted to buy pumpkins. The decorations took over three days to complete

and it was a wonderful sight to see. Melody Manning's creativity is phenomenal. Thanks to those who saved the palettes last year in the woods, as we recycled them this year. Thanks to all who helped move them from the woods, set them up (the Boy Scouts) and return them back to the woods. We do need a few more pickup trucks in the congregation to make for light work (trucks carry more).

During the open hours of the Pumpkin Patch, we had over 80 volunteers, and were staffed for 180 hours. The "torrential" rains on some days were detrimental to sales and some volunteers were very wet. Thank goodness we had the tent. Many thanks to Carol Dismukes for her timeless energy in organizing all the volunteers and covering the patch when no one came forward to volunteer.

It takes a tremendous amount of work for The Pumpkin Patch to be successful and we did it. Thanks again to all who worked so very hard.



Serving This Month

Ushers at 9:30am

December 6th & 13th: Kathy Cowles*, Tom & Linda St. Clair, Terrie Tuckman

December 20th & 27th: Steve Wege*, Carol Dismukes, Greg Heath

Ushers at 11:00am

December 6th & 13th: Jane Rankin, Ann Tognetti

December 20th: Bob* & Flo Lockman, Leslie Avery, Lucille Browne

December 27th: Only one service at 9:30am

Greeters at 9:30am

December 6th: Carol Dismukes

December 13th: Lyn Mullinax, Katie Connors, & Ian Mullinax

December 20th: Boots & Howard Wickham

December 27th: Sara Romeyn & Tim Evans

Greeters at 11:00am

December 6th: Carol Dismukes

December 13th: Lyn Mullinax, Katie Connors, & Ian Mullinax

December 20th: Charlotte Mangene

December 27th: Only one service at 9:30am

Acolytes at 9:30am

December 6th: Ashley Holder

December 13th: Sean Ramsperger

December 20th: Victoria Haass

December 27th: Aimee Ramsperger

Acolytes at 11:00am

December 6th: Jason Spriggs

December 13th: Kaitlyn Gautereaux

December 20th: Cooper Breen

December 27th: Only one service at 9:30am

Acolytes: Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th

5:30pm: Colin Woodrow

8:30pm: Charles Halverson

Bell Ringers

December 6th: Henry Bryant

December 13th: Andrew Bryant

December 20th: Colin Woodrow

December 27th: TBD



Security Guard / Lockup

December 6th through 12th: Thomas St. Clair

December 13th through 19th: David Dana

December 20th through 26th: George Graves

December 27th through January 2nd: Jim Johnston

For the Month

Altar Guild: Lesley Avery & Terrie Tuckman

Communion Steward & Servers (11/29): Carol Dismukes (Steward); Berniece Eby & Helen Dana (9:30am); Nancy Skinner & Ann Tognetti (11:00am)

Card Ministry: Carol Dismukes

Pew Steward: Mary Nieter

Projection: Bobbie Chase, Woody Machalek, Gregg Price, Chuck Spencer

Sound System: Doug Dismukes, John Kelly, Tom St. Clair

Sunday School & Nursery

Nursery (all Sundays): Melissa Fonseca

Preschool:

December 6th, 13th—Roberta & Roland Zapp

December 20th, 27th—TBD

Kindergarten & 1st Grade:

December 6th—Dona Love & Joe Breen

December 13th—Lesley Avery & Caren Stefan

December 20th—Dona Love & Joe Breen

December 27th—Betty Crisp

2nd & 3rd Grade:

December 6th—Betty Crisp & Caren Stefan

December 13th—Betty Crisp & Henry Bryant

December 20th—Betty Crisp & Carol Carnahan

December 27th—Combined with 4th & 5th Grade

4th & 5th Grade:

December 6th—Sandy & Larry Larkin

December 13th—Alisa & Woody Machalek

December 20th—Linda Bowles & Henry Bryant

December 27th—Gina Dawson

Middle School:

December 6th, 27th—Greg & Kathryn Holden

December 13th, 20th—Connie & Tim Burke

Senior High:

December 6th, 20th, 27th—Tracy & Steve Clark

December 13th—TBD

