



Celebrating

The Good News of Jesus Christ



Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church

November 11, 2008



MESSIAH

The Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Chancel Choir with orchestra and soloists will present Handel's great oratorio, MESSIAH, on Sunday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. This beloved oratorio, premiered in 1742, has now been with us for 266 years, and yet it remains the most powerful testimony to the Christian faith in all of sacred choral music. Believers continue to thrill to the incredible sweep of Old Testament prophesy realized in the person of Jesus Christ. Who knows how many non-believers have been

brought to Christ by this masterwork?

Robert Webber, in his seminal book, Ancient-Future Time, reminds us that the days and seasons of the Christian year are not just memorials to a distant past: When we observe Advent, according to Webber, we are not simply preparing for Christmas, but for the Second Coming of Christ. The celebration of Christmas, he says, is more about the re-birth of Jesus into our hearts today. And so it goes: Lent, Webber states, is not so much about somber reflection on Jesus' passion and death as about ritual purification of our own hearts that we might prepare for Christ's incarnation in us and our "going out" to witness in a world full of need.

That ancient-future model goes, I think, to the heart of why MESSIAH continues to be such a powerful witness today. It can be understood on so many different levels. The prophet Isaiah's words speak to us just as directly as they did to his contemporaries. It is to us that "the voice who crieth out in the wilderness" continues to speak and for us that God "has made a highway straight" in the desert. It is to us "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed". How we need that for we all have experienced what it's like to be "the people that walked in darkness".

The touching scene with shepherd's music floating through the hills and a burst of angel song heralding Jesus' birth is followed directly with the admonition that "for unto US a child is born; unto us a child is given". The ancient future construct continues throughout the entire oratorio. The magnificent "Hallelujah Chorus" is in present tense - "the Lord omnipotent reigneth" in our hearts, not once upon a time, but right now. And it is followed by one of the most profound and personal statements of faith (one of the few uses of the personal pronoun in the entire work): "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth".

Handel could easily have chosen to end his great masterpiece with the Hallelujah Chorus, but he did not. Instead, he chose to close MESSIAH with a monumental "Amen Chorus". Amen! It means so much more than simply "The end". It means that we have heard the Word and commit ourselves to live in the Word. "So be it", we say, for truly "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain and has redeemed us by His blood".

My prayer for each of you, the choir, and all those with a part in this very special presentation is that it will be more than "just another Messiah"; that, on December 14, a worship experience of the highest order will take place, that Christ will be lifted up, that lives will be changed. Mark your calendars, and bring your friends! --STAN

This Sunday
November 16th
8:15, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Albert Shuler
"In Us God Trusts"

Scripture:
Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer Families

*We ask your prayers
this week for these mem-
bers of our church family:*

*Ray and Sue Cannon,
Jody and Debi Canter,
Alton R. Capwell, Richard
J. Capwell, Marguerite
Carlisle, Sallie Carlisle,
and Ron and Betsy
Carnighan.*

*Please also pray for the
Staff Parish Relations
Committee.*

17th Annual Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture.

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, 2008,
Wright Auditorium, East Carolina University

Tickets are free for everyone and can be obtained by visiting the box office in the lobby of Wright Auditorium just before the lecture.

Noted Jesus scholar Marcus Borg (Ph. D., Oxford University) will deliver this year's lecture. The work of Borg, distinguished professor of religion and culture at Oregon State University, is controversial and thought-provoking. Dr. Borg has authored ten books, two of which have become best-sellers. One of his recent publications is *The Heart of Christianity: How We Can Be Passionate Believers Today* (2003).



Tea at Two Vision Group
 Tuesday Nov. 18th in the college classroom, TCLC room 111.

EXPLORERS: A new adult Sunday school class

will begin this Sunday (November 16th) with a two week look at Thanksgiving entitled "Let's Talk Turkey". On November 30th the class will begin a 5 week Advent study entitled "While We Wait" by Mary Lou Redding. If you are interested in being a part of the Advent study, please contact Debi Holcombe at dholcom@pitt.k12.nc.us, to pre-order a book. The cost is \$12.00. The EXPLORER class will meet during the Sunday school hour in the Kingdom Quest room (across the hall from the flex space in the TCLC). Facilitators for the Advent study will be Debi Holcombe, Tim Dismukes and Hale Stephenson.



Fellowship Feast
 Wednesday, November 19th
Serving at 5:30
In The Taft CLC

Menu: Not Available.

We need help setting up, serving, and cleaning up Fellowship Feast. **We also need** leaders for the Children's Program. To help out, please call Patty Marr at 757-1883. **Cost:** adults - \$6.00 & children - \$2. **Please make reservation** by email: jar-visumc@earthlink.net; by calling the church office, 752-3101, or by filling out a card in pew pad on Sundays.

Salvation Army

Jarvis will be ringing the Salvation Army Bells on Saturday, Dec. 6. Sign up sheets will be in the Hall of History and TCLC on Sunday mornings.



One Day With God Camp

Car Wash Tickets will be available for purchase for the next two weeks at the church as well as at the United Methodist Men's Fall Feast this Saturday (Nov. 15). **Training sessions** will take place on Thursday, Nov. 20th from 6:30 till 8:00 p.m. and on Friday, Nov. 21st starting at 8:15 a.m. And on Saturday volunteers should arrive at 7:45 a.m. We greatly appreciate your support and dedication.

Volunteer and other needs

One Day with God Camp

We need donations of homemade cakes, pies, brownies and cookies. We also need to sell car wash tickets (\$10 each). To help out please call Patty Marr at 757-1883.

Operation Christmas Child

Sunday, November 23rd is the drop off date for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes at Jarvis. If you have packed a shoebox for the project, please bring it to church that Sunday. Thank you for your help.

On Nov 24th we will begin...

decorating the Sanctuary for the holidays. Please plan to come help out. Look for more information in the coming weeks.



United Methodist Women

On Sunday, you witnessed an outpouring of love, time, and resources as the Prayer Shawl Ministry, started by UMW October 7, presented our offering of 19 shawls to be blessed. These shawls have been prayed over as we made them, collectively in our group meetings and in worship services-including the children sermons. A smaller group of shawls was blessed by ministers earlier and have been given away. We pray that those who receive our gifts will feel wrapped in God's closeness and our prayers during their times of need. Several shawls, some of which are really lap blankets, have already been given to members of our church and community. Our group is church-wide, including women who are not UMW members and we have become ecumenical! We meet Tuesday mornings in the conference room from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday nights from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m.. We welcome seasoned needle workers and are happy to teach beginners to knit or crochet. Come and join us! We have supplies to share. Hilda Alford 756-7842

On Sunday, you witnessed an outpouring of love, time, and resources as the Prayer Shawl Ministry, started by UMW October 7, presented our offering of 19 shawls to be blessed. These shawls have been prayed over as we made them, collectively in our group meetings and in worship services-including the children sermons. A smaller group of shawls was blessed by ministers earlier and have been given away. We pray that those who receive our gifts will feel wrapped in God's closeness and our prayers during their times of need. Several shawls, some of which are really lap blankets, have already been given to members of our church and community. Our group is church-wide, including women who are not UMW members and we have become ecumenical! We meet Tuesday mornings in the conference room from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday nights from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m.. We welcome seasoned needle workers and are happy to teach beginners to knit or crochet. Come and join us! We have supplies to share. Hilda Alford 756-7842

Joy Club

Monday, Dec. 1 at 12:15
 Program by Stan McDaniel

Poinsettias

The Worship Committee feels it would be appropriate to determine an optimal number of poinsettias with which to decorate around the chancel during Advent. That number would be representative of the memorials and honoraria that are intended. The Committee recommends we designate all money received beyond the necessary number of plants to the Pastor's Benevolent Fund to assist persons in need. The poinsettias will be in the church December 14th and 21st and every honoree and donor will be named in the bulletin. Complete & return the form below w/your check (\$8 each) to the church.



Name of Donor: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Calendar: November 16th
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Plunge
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. - The Current

Jarvis United Methodist Men

FALL FEAST

2008 BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

Plus Casserole & Bake Sale
United Methodist Women

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

11:00 to 2:00

At Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church

TICKETS \$6.00

All proceeds benefit ministry and outreach.



It's not too Late

Sign up for the Church Directory Today! **Free** 8x10 portrait and **free** Church Directory for participating families. Sign up sheets are available in the Hall of History and Taft CLC. Photography dates are Monday, Dec. 1 through Saturday, Dec. 6. Many thanks to those who have already signed up!



Altar Flowers

A word of gratitude Jim and Connie Moseley for providing the altar lowers on Sunday, November 9.

In the Hospital

Lois Fleming

Green Tip of the Month-

"Tis the season to cook for your family! As you prepare your family meals this fall, try these energy-saving tips:

- Be sure to prep your ingredients before you turn on the stove.
- Microwave when possible – it requires much less energy!
- Cover your pots and pans. Food heats more quickly so you can turn the unit down and use less energy.

Try turning off the unit before the dish is done (1-2 minutes).

(www.greenlivingtips.com)

Week of November 16th, 2008

Children's Church:

Kingdom Quest Leader - (9:00) Meredith Bonnette **(11:00)** Patty Marr & Kim Kuhn

Acolytes: (8:15) Caroline Edwards **(11:00)** Trey Goodson

Crucifer: (8:15) Madison Faulconer **(11:00)** Will Landry

Music and Worship News -by Dr. Stan McDaniel



"The View" from the Pew *(continued)*

Mark Galli, in his wonderful and thought-provoking book, "Beyond Smells and Bells: The Wonder and Power of Christian Liturgy", describes a mindset many of us can all relate to. "Some Sundays," Galli writes, "I am desperate to have a 'meaningful' worship experience; so I valiantly try to put myself in a spiritual mood as I enter the sanctuary. I say all the prayers with inward fervor. I confess my sins with profound sincerity. I listen attentively to the sermon. I receive Communion with great reverence...And I walk out of the sanctuary *irritated*. It's obvious," he explains, "why I hadn't had a 'meaningful spiritual experience'. I spent my time focusing on the experience I was supposed to be having rather than on the Lord I was supposed to be worshipping." What a profound insight. It is the crux of what so many of these weekly columns have been about.

In weeks to come we will continue the discussion of symbols in our sanctuary, focusing on the carved figures in the "reredos", the framed area on the wall behind our altar. Symbols (like so much in worship) can be understood on two different levels. We can appreciate their beauty, the artistry required to create them, their meaning and history – all of those things – and totally miss the point of symbols. Symbols are of no value unless they are able to draw us into that "other place" where real worship, communion with God, can happen – where Mark so "desperately" wants to be. The symbols on the reredos nearly all relate to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. They are quite beautiful, but that isn't the point. The intent, as we gaze upon the altar and the sacred art behind it, is that we actually find *ourselves* at the last supper (cross and chalice), standing at the foot of the cross (cross and shroud), and celebrating at the empty tomb (butterfly). Through symbols AND the power of the Holy Spirit, that can happen. I promise.

Let us never fail to give thanks to the unseen God, the God of history, the God of now and future, who just as "desperately" seeks to capture your heart and mine...

Don't forget

Current and past newsletters can be found on Jarvis' website at www.jarvismethodist.org

