



Celebrating

The Good News of Jesus Christ



Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church

December 09, 2008

Jesus: The Light of the World

Isaiah 1:6-8, 14-28

In reading the Isaiah passage this week in preparation for the advent season, I was struck in that reading by so many images of darkness. For you and I often associate the negative things of this world with darkness; because darkness is often associated with difficult conditions, cloudiness of vision, despair, depression, sinfulness and even death. A well known prayer that the church uses during a service of death and resurrection states within it these thoughts, "Eternal God, your love for us is everlasting; you alone can turn the shadow of death into the brightness of the morning light."

Take a look at the scripture with me and see again all the images of darkness that the prophet Isaiah speaks about: oppression, brokenness, captivity, death, mourning, ruins, devastation, robbery, and wrongdoing. But Isaiah's word to the Jewish community of his time is not all gloom and doom. For he speaks of one who is to come, a Messiah, who will turn all the shadows of darkness into the brightness of the morning light. In fact, these words of Isaiah are words of scripture that our Lord Jesus reads when as a child he enters the temple in Jerusalem and he uses Isaiah's words as his own call to the ministry that God has laid upon him, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and release to the prisoners... to comfort all who mourn... to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit... to build up the ancient ruins... to raise up the former devastations... to repair the ruined cities."

These, my friends, are works of light that overcome all darkness. This is why this season is filled with such joy, because we anticipate the One who brings the ultimate love and power to cast out all works of darkness, yea, the One who, himself is raised out of the darkness of death and gives to us the hope of sharing in his resurrection life. Have a blessed Advent Season.

In Christ

Albert Shuler

This Sunday

December 14

8:15, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Diane Christianson
"Dear John"

Scripture:
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Prayer Families

We ask your prayers this week for these members of our church family: Margie Clark, Matthew W. Clark, Billy and Nancy Clark, Warren and Lisa Clark, Ed and Vicki Clement, Mike and Beth Coan, and David and Gayle Cobb.

Please also pray for the Finance Committee.

December 14, 2008 4:00 – 6:15 p.m.

MESSIAH

By Georg Friedrich Händel

Jarvis Memorial Chancel Choir
With Soloists and Orchestra



There would be no Christmas without the cross. Join us as we sing 'Hallelujah'

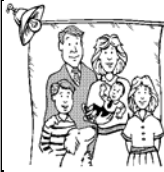
Calendar of Events During Advent

December 14 - 4:00 p.m. - Handel's Messiah. Reception afterward in TCLC
December 21 - 8:30 a.m. - Worship featuring Sanctuary Choir, Worship Team - TCLC
10:00 - 10:45 a.m. - Christmas Pageant - TCLC
11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship with carols, Chancel Choir, and organ (Sanctuary)

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Caroling at Cypress Glen (Meet in Music Suite)
December 23 - 7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir (special rehearsal for Christmas Eve)

December 24 - 5:30 p.m. - Family Worship
7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion with carols, choir, bells, soloists, and organ





Church Directory - Need to Reschedule?

Families who need to schedule or reschedule their picture date or time should call Olin Mills at 1-800-866-2263.

Volunteers are needed ...

to serve as ushers for the Christmas Eve Services. 5:30 and 7:30. please call Betsy Allen 355-6585 or Jo Anna Lee at 752-6586.

Emerald City Big Band 18th Annual Christmas Concert December 16th at 7:30 p.m. - Music Academy of Eastern Carolina

The Emerald City Big Band will be presenting their 18th annual Christmas Concert on December 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Music Academy of Eastern Carolina. The Music Academy is located at 1400 Red Banks Road in Greenville. Cost for the concert is \$5 and reservations may be made by calling the Music Academy at 353-6232.

The Emerald City Big Band will perform traditional Christmas Music in a variety of swing and Big Band styles. Christmas Favorites such as Jingle Bells, Santa Claus is coming to Town, and others will be featured. Emery Davis and Ed Wheatley will provide vocals. The Music Academy is a nonprofit community music school.

Sympathy

Our prayers and sympathy are with David and Gayle Cobb and family upon the death of his brother, Kinchen Benton Cobb, on December 5th, 2008.

Our Prayers and sympathy are with Barbara Hall and family upon the death of her husband, Ellis F. Hall Jr., on December 11th, 2008.

We Welcome

*New Members joining Sunday,
December 14-*

Frank and Sandra Brooks

Frank and Sandra come to us by transfer from Queen St. UMC, Kinston, NC.

Marjorie Taylor

Marjorie comes to us by transfer from Ahoskie UMC, Ahoskie, NC.



Fellowship Feast

**Wednesday, December 17th
Serving at 5:30
In The Taft CLC**

Menu: Pancakes and Sausage. **Cost:** adults - \$6.00 & children - \$2. **Please make reservation** by email: jarvisumc@earthlink.net; calling the church office, 752-3101, or card in pew pad on Sundays. There will not be a Fellowship Feast Dec. 24th or 31st.

If anyone is willing ... to take a meal to the Adams family, please contact Mary Bishop @ mary102157@yahoo.com or call 321-4801. We are trying to deliver 3 meals every other week when Cindy has chemo. Gift certificates to restaurants are also appreciated. Available dates are: Dec. 15, 16, 18, 29 and 30; Jan. 12, 13, 15, 26, 27, & 29.

Please ...bring gently used coats (Male and female of all sized) to the Hall of History on Sunday or any workday. The UMW will be donating all collected coats to My Sisters Closet. Please safety pin or clip your name and address to your contribution and contact Hilda Alford (756-7842) if you wish to receive tax receipt.

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)



United Methodist Women

"The following officers for 2009 were installed by outgoing president, Mary Bishop, at the Christmas dinner Monday night at Cypress Glen. We are grateful to Mary for her leadership and many acts of service to UMW. President, Genie Caldwell; Vice President, Beth Griffin; Secretary, Debbie Hartsell; Treasurer, Madoline Murphy; Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Pat Carter; Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Laurie Godwin; Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator, Charity Holland; Social Action Coordinator, Ann Davis; Nominating Committee Chairperson, Mary Bishop; Program Resources Coordinator, Jackie Horton; 39 and Under Chairperson, Patty Marr; Circle leaders (1) Patty Marr, Beth Griffin (2) Jane Brown (3) Marian Smith, Lib Proctor (4) Pat Campbell (5) Cindy Letchworth, Linda Walker (6) Connie Hicks, Charity Holland (7) email circle-Mary Bishop (8) Debbie Champion, Margaret Nottingham."

Thanks! Hilda

THE NAME

Above all powers, above all kings, above all darkness, small and even greater things, the Name above all other names resounds with unsurpassed renown. To wrap up the year JSM embarks upon a challenging, yet wonderful journey. During Sunday school, Plunge, and The Current students will explore the great majesty of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Students will learn the many names of Jesus, stemming from the forecasts of old, to the predictions fulfilled in the New Testament. Truly, this will be an edifying adventure no one will want to miss. Also, I wish to mention a quick reminder about the angel tree party this Saturday. Students are strongly encouraged to serve at this event. Their only responsibility will be playing with underprivileged children, thus making their Christmas season filled with greater hope and joy. Students interested should arrive at the TCLC at 12:00. They may stay as long as they wish.

Calendar: December 14th
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Plunge
7:30 - 8:45 p.m. - The Current

Happy Advent Season,
Bert Snyder
Director of Student Ministries

Jarvis
Student
Ministries
www.jarvism.com

In the Hospital

Nola Bays
Martha Mills



Annual Hooker Library Ornaments!
Christmas tree ornaments will be ready on Sunday December 21st.
Merry Christmas! J

Week of December 14, 2008

Children's Church:
Kingdom Quest Leader - (9:00) Tammy Ward (11:00) Anissa Potter and Laura Smith
Acolytes: (8:15) Briana Brown (11:00) Caroline Edwards
Crucifer: (8:15) Madison Faulconer (11:00) Trey Goodson

Music and Worship News -by Dr. Stan McDaniel

The Carols of Christmas



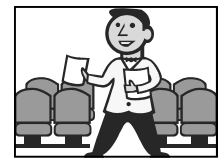
The Advent/Christmas season is always a challenge for ministers of music. When it comes to singing Christmas carols, we always tread a fine line. Do it too soon, and we risk throwing out all that's important theologically about Advent and our preparation for the Christ's coming. Wait too long, and risk being viewed as the "grinch who stole Christmas." Each year, Albert, Diane, and I get requests to begin the carol singing immediately after Thanksgiving. And each year we struggle to find a compromise. "After all, we're not Episcopalians, one member of the congregation exclaimed a week or two ago. Why not sing the carols!" (Actually, some of my Episcopal friends would laugh because many of their churches struggle with the same issues.) You'd almost think we ministry types don't like the carols, and that's far from the truth.

An experience I had a number of years ago might put this in perspective. I was serving a historic downtown church in another southern city and was asked to write a piece for the local paper on how Christmas had been celebrated in the past in that church. Well, I started out in the church archives, then went to the library, and I even accessed the archives of the local newspaper. I couldn't find a thing prior to 1880, and this church had been a beacon to the community years before the Civil War. I was puzzled until I talked to a local historian. "Why they didn't even observe Christmas in those days the way we do now," he explained. "There was a genuine concern that the emphasis on gift giving, decorations, and carol singing would overshadow the real importance of Christ's coming."

The singing of carols in church has been a phenomena mostly of the last 150 years. The earliest Christmas carols started out as instrumental pieces for dancing during the Christmas season. The singing of Christmas songs was strictly forbidden in worship for at least the first 12 centuries of Christianity, but folk carols were sung and quite popular outside the church. A great hero to all of us who love the carols should be St. Francis of Assisi who introduced the singing of carols to Christmas Midnight Mass in 1223. It is because of him that carols now occupy such an important position in the celebration of Christmastide.

All very interesting, I'm sure, and, for those of you wanting your carols *yesterday*, completely pointless. BUT – saints, rejoice! – we feel your pain. Carols will be sung in worship December 14 and 21, God is in His holy temple, and the Christ Child is on His way!

Wanted



Head Usher
Reward
Service to Our Church
If Found Contact
Jo Anna Lee 752-6586

