



THE HERITAGE HERALD

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December, 2008

Heritage Christian Church
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Heritage Staff

Rev. Laura Hamm Peterson, Senior Minister
Rev. Jim Cole, Associate Minister
Mary Sugar, Director of Music
Siggie Ogan, Office Manager

Rev. Kathy Kohl, Coordinator of Pastoral
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Pastoral Letter

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. The days are the shortest all year, culminating on Dec 21st – the Winter Solstice. It’s cold and dark and yet there’s a sense of anticipation in the air...

Sometimes it’s unavoidable - Christmas has become a month long event (or a three month event, judging by the stores!). The Christmas trees, the twinkling lights, the parties, the cookies, and the music: the season of Advent is often mistaken as just four more weeks of celebration. But Advent is a season all by itself. It’s a season of waiting – of anticipation.

That’s hard for us to understand from 2008 - we’re pretty sure when the Christ will come this year – December 25th! But be prepared, Jesus warns us. Don’t get to complacent in your tidy Christian calendar. Indeed, the people at the first Advent had no way to know when the Christ would come. And they weren’t expecting a poor baby, they were expecting a king!

So as we prepare for another Advent season at Heritage, let us be mindful that the spirit of Advent is important to keep in our hearts all year round. Keep awake! The Christ draws near...

Shalom,
Pastor Laura



Congregation Meeting

The Congregational Meeting to approve the 2009 budget proposal will be held immediately after worship on December 14, 2008. Copies of the proposed budget will be distributed December 7th and mailed to anyone not in attendance.

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

- 1 Mark Sheelor
- 3 Andrew Berlett
- 5 Matthew Duncan
- 16 Lena Slonaker
- 17 Heather Petersen
- 21 Robbie Chisholm
- 23 Marsha Goshorn
- 24 Pat Daugherty
- 25 Aaron Evanzz
- Kathy McQuilkin
- 30 Annie Stutz

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Vivian and Franklin Gee
- 22 Pat and Curtis Martin

January Newsletter deadline is December 20.

A Caring Congregation

New Joys and Concerns:

Frank Taylor's sister, **Pam Maupin** is recovering from arthroscopic surgery.

Mercedes Lawrence and her husband, **Jeanne Taylor's** sister **Mary's** good friends, were in a car accident, **Mary** is in an induced coma and her husband is in critical condition.

Cathy Berlett's nephew, **Ben Howard's** mother-in-law, **Liz Ribas** had emergency triple bypass open heart surgery.

Michael Slonake's cross-country team is going to State.

Kevin Bennett retired on November 12th.

Judy Robinson and her son traveled to Alaska to be with her sister, recovering from a stroke.

Michele Cornwell's mother, **Claudette Horowitz** had multiple strokes, and is home recovering.

Clinton Helton's sister **Omah Medley** is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Keir Lewis, a teacher friend of **Jeanne Taylor** has an undiagnosed medical condition.

Taylor Law, classmate of **Maranda Taylor** has leukemia.

Christa Partain friend of **Cathy Berlett**, will be having surgery on November 26th to remove a small tumor in her brain.

Ed Lucic and his wife, friends of **Alex Saunders**, lost everything in a boat fire.

Lena Slonaker is recovering from a car accident.

Suzanne Maher, friend of **Jeanne Taylor**, suffered a heart attack and has pneumonia.

Ongoing Joys and Concerns:

Keith Hamilton is out of the hospital and staying with Ginny.

Eric Hamilton, **Ginny's** son is in need of prayer.

Pat Carroll's grandson, **Mikey Harris**, has ongoing health problems from birth.

Emma McCrickard has a salt deficiency and is suffering from dizziness.

Shorty Mellott one of Camp Mary Mac Angels is having serious health problems.

Bob Snider, **Mike Shelburne's** friend was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease.

Fred Detmer, **Sue Reed's** friend is on dialysis.

Daisy Slonaker, is receiving chemotherapy.

Connie Craven, **Alex Saunder's** friend has lung and liver cancer.

Pedro Sera, **Bruce Cornwell's** friend, has lung cancer.

Marian Forney, **Shelburne's** friend, has cancer.

Elderly or Homebound:

Alice Hardin, Margaret Moore, Irene Hensel

Death:

Leo Sinclair's 15 year old nephew Brandon

Lenora Few's sister-in-law, Camilla Wilson

Music Notes

Our Christmas Pageant is scheduled for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21.

Anyone--youth, teens, or adults--who is interested in participating, please contact me at MarySugarMusic@yahoo.com

--*Mary Sugar, Director of Music*

Heritage Giving for November 1-16, 2008

Pledges - \$5,124

Loose - \$94

Church Use - \$2,145

Roof Fund - \$3,367.50

Roof Fund year to date - \$16,079.12

Capital Campaign/Building - \$180

Building Fund year to date - \$20,782.03

Additional funds have been received towards the special October Youth Sunday offering; \$362.21 was raised and will go into our roof fund. Thank you again to everyone who contributed towards this fund.



Board of Directors

--*Cathy Berlett*

The Board met on November 10th. We reviewed the current budget and Stewardship Campaign for the 2009 budget. We received a request from the Rev. Chris Hobgood for twelve individuals to participate in a study of and develop leadership in Spirituality and Anti-racism based on the book he has written on this subject. Rev. Hobgood will be invited to present this pilot proposal to members of the congregation who might be interested in participating. Additional information will be forthcoming in January.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, December 1st at 7:00 PM.

Property Upkeep

Thank you to those who did some tree work and removed some of the old furniture from the library. We will continue to work on the list of projects.

News

Week of Compassion is monitoring a number of very serious emergencies in various parts of the world that are receiving only scant attention in the media. These include the devastating earthquake that struck southwestern Pakistan; the renewed violence in eastern Congo that has worsened an already horrific humanitarian refugee crisis in the DRC; extensive flooding in Central America and in Vietnam; and the deepening financial and hunger crisis in Zimbabwe. For more information please visit www.weekofcompassion.org

A big thank you to Melvin Harvey who fixed the women's toilet, and Bruce Cornwell who fixed our hallway security light.

Advent Soup and Spirit – this season of Advent, we will be meeting each Tuesday at 6:30 at the church to share a bowl of soup, fellowship, and engage in some of the questions that Advent raises. We will be using Blair Meek's book Expecting the Unexpected. Please plan to join us! Let Pastor Laura know if you are interested, so she can be sure to order enough books (\$10 gift appreciated, but not required!) Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

Hanging of the Greens - December 6th from 1-4pm. Come join us as we decorate Heritage for the season! We'll have hot chocolate and chili for everyone, and Jeanne Taylor will be doing a special project with all of the kids. Please join us!

Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm this year to accommodate our young people's bedtimes. This beautiful candlelight service will be a Lessons and Carols service, and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you are in need of a ride, please call the church office and we will gladly arrange it.

WEATHER ALERTS: As we move into winter, we will use the heritage listserv to announce any cancelations due to weather conditions. If you are not signed up for this service, please let Jeanne Taylor know your email address so that she can add you. If you do not have email access, and are in doubt, please call Pastor Laura at 240-750-0990.

Please email all joys and concerns to the pastor at hamm_laura@yahoo.com or call 301-384-1510 before Thursday so that we can print them in the bulletin.

Please remember to check the prayer concerns on the bulletin board each week, and keep your prayer requests up to date! You may remove or modify a concern by emailing or calling Siggie: siggie6@juno.com 301-384-1510.

Christmas Poinsettias – If you would like to help decorate our chancel for Advent, please consider dedicating a poinsettia. The cost is \$11.50, and orders are due to the office by Dec. 7th. Please see Eleanor Warburton for more information.

- Christmas Shoppe, Sundays in December - Contributions of new or almost new decorations or gifts welcome. Donations accepted starting Dec. 1.

Lectionary Readings for December

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21 Christmas Sunday

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 28 First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10- 62:3 Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

	DECEMBER 7	DECEMBER 14	DECEMBER 21	DECEMBER 28
GREETER	JANET ULRICH	CHRIS WHITE	JOSH KELLEY	GINNY HAMILTON
ACOLYTE	BEN CORNWELL	ROSIE STUTZ	CHARLOTTE SEAY	PAIGE SHELBURNE
WORSHIP LEADER	ESCO GARNER	ROBERT TUREK	SUE REED	CATHY BERLETT
DEACONS	JANET ULRICH	KEVIN BENNETT	NONNIEKAYE SHELBURNE	ESCO GARNER
	GINNY HAMILTON	CHRIS WHITE	JUDY ROBINSON	BILL NELSON
	MARK GRZESZKIEWICZ	ANNA SLONAKER	CARA HARVEY	JANET ULRICH
	SAM KAUFMAN	DENNIS STUTZ	JOSH KELLEY	GINNY HAMILTON
ELDERS	JEANNE TAYLOR	JOHN SLONAKER	KRISTY PETERSEN	PAT MARTIN
	ELEANOR WARBURTON	WALLY DUNCAN	VANESSA BROWN-SEAY	LORI KAUFMAN
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	PAT MARTIN	GLORIA POWELL	WALLY DUNCAN	ACTIVITY SHEET
SOCIAL HOUR	TBD	PAT CARROLL	THE SLONAKERS	THE BENNETTS
COUNTERS	SUE REED DIANA VOGELSONG	CATHY BERLETT CHRIS WHITE	ROBERT TUREK VANESSA BROWN-SEAY	LORI KAUFMAN ANDREW BERLETT

Schedule of Services:

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Social Hour: 11:30 a.m.

December

Bethel Church will be using HCC on Friday nights from 7:00 -10:30 p.m.

Pathway Church will be using HCC on Sundays from 1:30 til 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Advent Soup and Spirit	3	4	5	6 1:00 -4:00 p.m. Hanging of the Greens
7 Second Sunday in Advent 8:15 Elder's Circle 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for K through 18	8	9 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Advent Soup and Spirit	10 6:30 -7:15 p.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 Third Sunday in Advent Cookie Sale! 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for K through 18 Congregational Meeting	15 6:30 p.m. Elder's Circle	16 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Advent Soup and Spirit	17 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. MAPS	18	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for K through 18 Children's Choral Presentation Both Choirs will be Singing	22	23 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Advent Soup and Spirit	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Rejoice Our Savior is Born	26	27
28 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for K through 18	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed			