



The Messenger

2016 THEME: "REJOICE"
(DECEMBER 2016)

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JOHN BOOHER -
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LAQUITA ARNER -
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NANCY HEALEY -
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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR NEXT
MONTH'S PUBLICA-
TION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



Once again, we are into the Advent and Christmas season. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival."

The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, plus the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, and of preparation. It is the season to focus on the gifts of: Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy that God gives us daily, through the Gift of His Son over 2000 years ago. As we go into the Advent season, I pray that we will all catch the true meaning of the season. Christ has come and He will come again, that is what we celebrate.



We have so many Blessings to be thankful for this Christmas Season. I hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends this holiday season. Enjoy the season but foremost count your many blessings and remember to keep Christ in your hearts, and in Christmas.

Evelyn and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Carl*



Calendar of Events

Worship Services at 10:00 AM

Adult Sunday School each Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

- **Tuesdays** - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 A.M.
- **Wednesdays** - Choir Rehearsal at 5:30 P.M.
- **Dec. 4** - Communion Sunday
- **Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00PM
- **Dec. 25** - The Birth of our Savior / Christmas Day
(No Adult Sunday School)
- **Jan. 8** - Installation of Elders Joyce Goza and Nancy Norris



THE ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS

In Biblical times, it wasn't unusual for men and women to be visited by angels; and they always had a message to deliver. It was usually prefaced with these words: "Fear not".



The angels of Christmas had a very important message to deliver, without a

doubt, the most important message ever delivered to anyone.

Who were these angels of Christmas?

The angel Gabriel appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of John the Baptist, who would "prepare the way of the Lord".

Gabriel also appeared to Mary and announced that she had been chosen by God to fulfill the prophesy of Isaiah, and give birth to the holy child, the long-awaited redeemer of Israel.

An angel, not named, appeared to Joseph, to confirm the validity of Mary's claims, and to assure Joseph that he should continue with his plans to take Mary as his wife.

After Jesus' birth, an angel again appeared to Joseph to warn him of Herod's intention to kill the holy child; and to tell Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and the baby.

When the danger had passed; the angel appeared to Joseph again; and assured him that the family could leave Egypt and return to Nazareth.



Then there were the angels, first one, then, we are told, "a multitude" who appeared to the shepherds, with the news of Jesus' birth.

And some theologians believe that the "star" which guided the Wise Men to the stable in Bethlehem, where the Christ child lay, was a "company of angels".

What was the real message these "angels of Christmas" brought? The message was one of joy, and of hope and of peace on earth.

"Hark the herald angels sing. Glory to the newborn King".

Wishing you a "Merry Christmas" from a very "Merry Heart".

Linda Lloyd

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests or other circumstances)

	2nd Sunday of Advent - Dec 4	3rd Sunday of Advent - Dec 11	4th Sunday of Advent - Dec 18	Christmas Eve - Dec 24	Christmas Day - Dec 25
First Reading	Isaiah 11: 1-11	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm	Psalm 72:1-7,18-19	Psalm 146:5-10	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Psalm 96	Psalm 97
Sec. Reading	Romans 15:4-13	James 5:7-10	Rom 1:1-7	Titus 2:11-14	Titus 3:4-7
Gospel	Matt. 3:1-12	Matt. 11:2-11	Matt. 1:18-25	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)	Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

December Birthdays

- Mike Moore 3
- Debby Aldridge 4
- Evelyn Duque 22
- Carol Booher 27
- Bobby Jackson 27

About our Members and Friends

Bev Jones's husband, Spencer, passed away peacefully in his sleep early Thanksgiving morning. Please pray for Bev and their families as they deal with this loss.

Michael and Nancy Kelsey Mike's tumor returned and is now in a chemo program under the direction of MDA but in Georgetown. This chemo is taking a toll on weight, energy, and strength.

Nancy's MDA Leukemia Trial is going well and her critical numbers are back to normal. Please pray for healing and God's peace to be with Mike and Nancy during this time.

Michelle VanWinkle of Hillsboro and daughter of Sharon and Rip VanWinkle, has

been diagnosed with colon cancer. The treatments have gone well and next she will undergo analysis to determine its effectiveness. Pray for a clean bill of health.

Chine Ray Rehab is progressing after the Oct. 12 knee replacement surgery. He has been to church the last two Sundays and hopes to start singing (and playing golf) soon.



May the magic of Christmas gladden your heart with the joys of the season. May the spirit of Christmas bless you with greater strength. May the promise of Christmas bring you and yours endless blessings.

Church Business

* Congregational Meeting Nov. 13

Two elders were elected at the Congregational Meeting. Nancy Norris and Joyce Goza were elected to three-year terms as elders of the Class of 2019. Nancy joined in 2012. Joyce joined the church in 2014.



The newly-elected elders are scheduled to be ordained at the Jan. 8, 2017 worship service. They will take on the Worship Committee responsibilities. Please continue to keep members of the Session and its work in your prayers.

The 1917 Budget was presented.

* Session Meeting Nov. 6

Mike Moore presented a draft budget for 2017. The Church is doing well financially, meeting all financial obligations to Presbytery and 25% toward Benevolences. Mike will serve as Treasurer one more year with the replacement to start training in July.

Nancy's 8 member committee operates on the guideline of 60% of disbursements to local entities, 40% to world-wide agencies, with annual outgo 25% of total Church income. They continue to use a strong charity vetting process to ensure our benevolence dollars are used primarily for their recipients.

Carl Menyhert checked and Presbytery has received the signed 1917 contract for Pastor Carl. The Congregation will vote on the nominating committee in January. Current members for consideration are Ellen Staples and Jerry Schleicher. Additional nominations will be taken from the congregation.

A motion by Sara Pettijohn was made and passed for the following Session Dates in 2017: Jan.15, April 30, July 16, October 15 plus the Annual Congregational Meeting Jan. 29.

THE MESSENGER

Adult Education News

The title of our Bible Study during Advent is the Christmas Incarnation. It is based on a study from Ralph F. Wilson. The study is broken into 4 segments:

1. Mary, the Virgin Mother (Luke 1:26-45) **Nov. 27**
2. Joseph, the Stand-In Father (Matthew 1:18-25) **Dec. 4**
3. The Shepherds' Sign of the Manger (Luke 2:1-20) **Dec. 11**
4. Wise Men and the Christmas Star of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-12) **Dec. 18**



I am certain that you will be introduced to some new concepts even though you may have read these verses many times. Join us at 9:00. We provide snacks and coffee. Pete Stebbins

Molly Hatchell as Guest Preacher

We were blessed to have Molly Hatchell as our guest preacher on November 13th.

Molly was our Summer intern a couple of years ago and is in the midst of the ordination process. She has completed her studies at Austin Theological Seminary. Its always good to have Molly preach and/or visit!



The Session approved Molly Hatchell preaching as needed in fulfilling her Presbytery requirements for ordination.



Carl Menyhert entertains the "Rehab Society"

Hanging of the Greens plus After Church Social - 11/27/2014



Jerry knows its not straight



Jim thinks he can eat the whole dish!



Jim Arner is Back!



Ralph Castor is a two fisted decorator.

Joan Ray and Barclay McCort doing Crafts



Letta and Joyce working on Fruit of the Tree.

