

The First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2009
The season of anticipation until Christmas Day

PRELUDE "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Smart/Rouse/Kirkland

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Ayana Crosby & Alyssa Lamb

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "When God is a Child" Chancel Choir

*** CALL TO WORSHIP "LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE"**
Ayana Crosby & Alyssa Lamb

Leader: Christians around the world begin this day to await the advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

People: **We gather as a people of Hope.**

Leader: Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.

People: **Our hope springs anew, from an ancient vision.**

Leader: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

People: **We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.**

Leader: Lighting the candle of hope.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Chalice Hymnal No. 148

***INVOCATION and LORD'S PRAYER and GLORIA PATRI**
(Words to the Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri and Doxology are in the pews)
Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
(Children age 3 through fourth grade will be dismissed to Children's Worship & Wonder).

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND THANKSGIVING OFFERING
Call to Stewardship Gary Franklin
Special Music Offering "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Pillihp
***Doxology**
***Prayer of Dedication** Gary Franklin

ANTHEM "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Communion Hymn "What Child Is This" Chalice Hymnal No. 162
Invitation to Communion Kathy Long
Prayer of Communion Ross Lange
(This is the Lord's Table. All believers in Christ are invited. As the emblems are passed, partake of the bread and hold the cup, offering your own prayer/meditation until after the congregational response.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:
(Taken from the New Testament: First Corinthians 11:23-26)

ELDER: The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My Body which is given for you."

COMMUNION MUSIC "All My Love" Goss

ELDER:
In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant of My Blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

CONGREGATION: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

SCRIPTURE Lamentations 3: 21-24 (Page 1279) Rev. Edd Spencer
Luke 2: 8-14 (Page 1591)

SERMON "New Love New Mercy" Rev. Edd Spencer

*** HYMN OF INVITATION** "Angels We Have Heard on High" Chalice Hymnal No. 155

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Edd Spencer

CHORAL RESPONSE "There's a Song in the Air!" Chalice Hymnal No. 159
Vs. 1 & 3

***POSTLUDE** "Let Every Heart Rejoice" Goff

***Those who are able, please stand.**

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, November 29

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service with Advent Candle lighting by the youth
10:15 am Children’s Worship and Wonder

MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:45 am – 1:30 pm The Adventure Nook (Our Preschool Ministry)

MONDAY, November 30

7:00 am Men’s Bible Study
10:00 am Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, December 1

9:45 am Chapel
7:00 pm Elders Calls

WEDNESDAY, December 2

9:45 am Chapel
6:00 pm Stewardship Dinner
7:00 pm Choir Practice

THURSDAY, December 3

12:00 pm Staff Christmas Luncheon

NEXT SUNDAY, December 6

10:00 am Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens
Commitment Sunday



STEWARDSHIP DINNER

The Finance Council is sponsoring a Stewardship Dinner this Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 pm. The dinner is free and will consist of chili/soup, a potato bar, salad and desert. After the dinner at 6:30, there will be a thirty-minute program of questions and answers about the 2010 budget, a skit on the joy of giving by Edd and David Brasher, and a worship devotional from Worship & Wonder. The nursery will be open. Please sign up today on the chart in the narthex.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The All-Church Christmas Dinner will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 13. The Fellowship Mission is providing us with a great Christmas Dinner consisting of:

- Roast Prime Rib of Beef
- Rosemary whipped potatoes
- Fresh vegetable medley,
- Southern style green beans,
- Fresh tossed greens w/sherry vinaigrette dressing hard rolls, cobbler a la mode
- Coffee, tea, and water

The cost is \$9.00 for adults, children 5-10 years old \$4.00 and children under 5 are free. Please make your reservations on the envelope in your pews. Reservations must be made and paid for no later than noon on December 9th. Come and invite a friend for a wonderful dinner and Christian fellowship.

SPREAD THE LIGHT

The CYF youth invite you to help them “Spread the Light of Christ” during this Advent season as we prepared to honor the Christ Child. We can each honor the Christ in those we love as well as those who have touched our lives by donating \$5.00 in honor or memory of someone who has shared Christ’s light with you. The CYF will be in the narthex Dec. 6, 13, and 20 to receive your donations. The names of those you will honor will be placed in both our Christmas Eve bulletins and displayed on the office windows. Thank you in advance for helping us spread Christ’s light. Your donations will help the youth on their mission trip.

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
MUSIC MINISTER: Rev. Jan Watts
ORGANIST/PIANIST: David Brasher
ELDERS ON CALL: Kathy Long & Ross Lange
*SERVING DIACONATE: Mack Carpenter, Julie Henderson, Megan Alderson,
Buzz & Nancy DeVore, Kathy Mann, Mike Mee,
Bruce & Marian Moon, Sharon & Elizabeth Orazine,
Donna Penn, John & Lisa Townsend, Garry Tyree*

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:
LESSON: The Prophets Show the Way (Advent I)
STORYTELLER: June Pryor
GREETERS: Pepper Edwards & Emma Harms
SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER: Jim Thigpen

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent we have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church in care of Conlee Alderson. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us. *Thank you, Conlee Alderson, Chair of the Personnel Committee*

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The All-Church Christmas Dinner is after morning worship on Sunday, December 13. The Fellowship Mission is providing us with a great Christmas Dinner of Roast Prime Rib of Beef, rosemary whipped potatoes, fresh vegetable medley, southern style green beans, fresh tossed greens with a sherry vinaigrette dressing, hard rolls, cobbler a la mode, coffee, tea, and water. The cost is \$9.00 for adults, children 5-10 years old \$4.00 and children under 5 are free. Please make your reservations on the envelope in your pews. Come and invite a friend for a wonderful dinner and Christian fellowship

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 6	Second Sunday of Advent Commitment Sunday Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, Dec 13	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata, "The Mystery And the Majesty." All-Church Christmas Dinner
Sunday, Dec. 20	Christmas Sunday Christmas Offering
Thursday, Dec. 24	Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion and Baptism Service at 7:00 and Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 pm.
Friday, Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!
Sunday, Dec. 27	College Recognition Sunday

What We Believe

- *Open Communion.* The Lord's Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all believers.
- *Baptism by immersion.* In baptism the old self-centered life is set aside and a new life of trust in God is made possible. Although we generally practice baptism by immersion, we honor other baptism traditions as well.
- *Importance of church unity.* All Christians should cooperate in ministry wherever possible, affirming each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- *The Ministry of all believers.* Both ministers and lay persons lead worship, direct service opportunities and nurture spiritual growth.
- *Freedom of belief.* We are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent we will have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your special gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church office in care of Conlee Alderson. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us.

Thank you, Conlee Alderson, Chair of the Personnel Committee

CHURCH BUS

The youth are serious about their service project for First Christian to purchase a new church bus. They have committed 10% of every dollar they earn this year to go towards a new bus. However they need your help. They are asking for YOU to make a **one time gift** towards a 15 passenger Activity Bus. Ken Horne, our Administrative Mission Chair, has offered to help in this project. If you would like to make a donation please see Ken.

COMPASSION CORNER

Great News! We have adopted a family for Christmas. There is a single mother with 3 children who needs our help. She lost her job right after the major charities closed their lists for Christmas help. Luckily, we got a call from DHR in Shelby County to help out with a power bill and now we have been given the opportunity to do even more! The children are 10, 7 and 4. If you are part of a group in the church and would like to volunteer to sponsor a child, the mother, Christmas dinner, a tree and decorations or perhaps help with utilities,

please contact me! I would love to have this project completed by Dec. 1. I will be available for questions and a sign-up list each Sunday, starting Nov. 15th in the narthex after service. Also, on November 29th, Outreach will be asking for another \$5 bill. This goes towards a Global Mission Project. I remind you, if you eat lunch out during the week, have Starbuck's coffee, see a movie or purchase fast food, you could skip just one thing and work together to bring about change in our world! We can reach beyond.....to the ends of the earth!

Blessings, Sharon and Liz...991-7168.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

First Christian is offering many opportunities for learning more about the Word of God and the spiritual life. The following classes are offered to help us all focus on a new insight into God's Word.



Sunday school Adult Classes
On Sunday morning at 9:00 am
Comrades Class
Insighters Class
Seekers Class



Men's Bible Study on the Minor Prophets. 7:00 am Monday Morning



A Study on the book the "Shack"
5:30 pm on Wednesday



A Study on the Parables of Luke
5:30pm on Sunday

Please make a commitment to attend one of these classes.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – Come and join us as we prepare for the Christmas Cantata on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm. Our cantata service will be Sunday, December 13. The choir would welcome anyone who loves to sing to join us as we make a joyful noise every Wednesday.