

The Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2009
The season of anticipation until Christmas Day

PRELUDE "Simple Gifts" Behnke

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Edd Spencer

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "When God is a Child"

*** CALL TO WORSHIP "LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE"**
Emma Harms & Jacob Thigpen

Leader: The season of Advent continues, Four thousand years of waiting for the Messiah, commemorated by the lighting of four candles.

People: **We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.**

Leader: We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the fail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

People: **Hope lives in us and will abide with us.**

Leader: Today we will light the candle of peace.

People: **This light, too, must brave great darkness.**

Leader: In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stand under threat of total annihilation, we light a fire called peace.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Chalice Hymnal No. 150

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

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Rev. Edd Spencer
Children who are rising four years old through fourth grade will be dismissed to Children's Worship & Wonder (An experiential worship experience for children) which meets in our library.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS
Call to Stewardship Rev. Edd Spencer
Special Music Offering "Away in a Manger" Wagner
David Brasher & Bell Choir
***Doxology**
***Prayer of Dedication (Commitment of our Pledges)** Rev. Edd Spencer

HANGING OF THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS The Youth Group

ANTHEM "What Child is This" Wagner
Bell Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Edd Spencer

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Communion Hymn "One Candle Lit" Chalice Hymnal No. 128
Vs. 1, 3, & 5

Invitation to Communion Hugh Henderson
Prayer of Communion Edith Carreras
(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 "The Snow Lay on the Ground" Wagner
Bell Choir

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.

SERMON "I Can Only Imagine" Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

SIGNING "I Can Only Imagine" by Mercyme Stacy Spencer Cason

*** HYMN OF INVITATION** "Joy to the World" Chalice Hymnal No. 143

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHORAL RESPONSE "There's a Song in the Air!" Chalice Hymnal No. 159
There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
for the manager of Bethlehem cradles a king!

***POSTLUDE** "Glory to God" Pillihp

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

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 6

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Christmas wreaths
Commitment Sunday
10:15 am Children's Worship and Wonder
5:30 pm Bible Study on Parables of Luke
5:30 pm Youth Groups
6:45 pm Snack Supper

MONDAY – FRIDAY

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

MONDAY, December 7

10:00 am Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Elders Christmas Party
at Clarissa Harms

TUESDAY, December 8

9:45 am Chapel
7:00 pm Elders Calls

WEDNESDAY, December 9

9:45 am Chapel
12:00 pm Young at Heart Christmas Party
at Janet Bonds
6:30 pm Choir Practice

NEXT SUNDAY, December 13

10:00 am Worship Service - Third Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata "Mystery and the Majesty"
11:00 am All-Church Christmas Dinner

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

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 and pay with the envelope in your pews.

Reservations must be made and paid for no later than **noon this Tuesday, December 8th**. 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 and on our website. Thank you in advance for helping us spread Christ's light.

ADVENT WORSHIP

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 – Laura Langley to Preach

YOUNG AT HEART

Christmas Magic and Salad...that's what our Young at Heart is all about this Wednesday, December 9th. Bring a salad, your jolly self and maybe a friend or two, and let's celebrate Christ's love for us in fellowship and fun. We will be leaving the church at 11:15 am and travel to Chelsea. The back door will always be open, so come on in, rain or shine. That's at my house at 156 El Camino Real, Chelsea. Sign up in the narthex today. *Janet*

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS:

MUSIC MINISTER:

ORGANIST/PIANIST:

ELDERS ON CALL:

SERVING DIACONATE:

Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

Rev. Jan Watts

David Brasher

Hugh Henderson & Edith Carreras

*Lisa Burdette, Gail Burton, Fletcher & Sandy Hamilton,
Carlton & Tiffany Horne, Scott Jackson, Donnette &
Katherine Mee, Rebecca Lange, Ed Powell, Bob Smith,
Corey Tabb, Charlie & Jacob Thigpen & Leanna Webb*

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:

LESSON: Mary and Joseph Show the Way (Advent II)

STORYTELLER: Julie Henderson

GREETERS: Emily Fowler & 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*

COMPASSION CORNER

Please stop by the Outreach table Sunday and sign up to help a needy family for Christmas. A working mother of three children lost her job after all "help" lists were full at area agencies. She is managing to pay her rent and gets assistance through food stamps but can't fund the holidays. Please help in any way. They need household supplies, Christmas decorations, clothes, toys, food and bedding. Even if you can just help with staples for the pantry, she can stretch her dollars further. Thank you for sharing your blessings. *Sharon and Liz*

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Each year during the Christmas season we pause to consider the miracle of Christ's birth. This year our cantata is "The Mystery and the Majesty" celebrating in music and words the "beautiful impossible" of the Incarnation. From jubilant glorias to gentle manger lullabies, this inspirational cantata celebrates the wonder and splendor of Christmas. The choir invites you to come worship with us on Sunday morning, December 13 @ 10am in the sanctuary where you will hear traditional carols, new songs, and beautiful poetry; all expressing the great signs of Christmas that dazzle the mind and delight the spirit. Assemble with us to decorate our sacred spaces with the music of our faith as we once again proclaim the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we worship together, may our hearts overflow with the mystery and majesty of Christmas.

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.

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.