

CONNEXION

A Monthly Newsletter
of

Peters Creek Church of the Brethren



2009

THE MYSTERY AND MAJESTY OF CHRISTMAS

Mysterious events occurred over 2000 years ago. Some so mysterious that we can not explain them well today. And from the mystery of the First Christmas came a majesty that still surrounds Christmas today.

Advent is the time to prepare our hearts to receive the Infant Jesus as Christ of our lives. There is great mystery surrounding his birth. Even with modern scientific explanations, there is still great mystery surrounding the creation of all babies. And what makes Jesus' birth so mysterious are the Birth Narratives in the Gospels. Within the Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke, we are told that his mother Mary was impregnated by God. In a visit of the Angel Gabriel, Mary was told of the birth. And in a dream an angel visits her finance to tell him the good news.

Angels are most prominent in the birth story of Jesus. The birth of John the Baptist was announced to his father Zechariah by an angel in a dream. But the story we remember best is the visit of the angels to the shepherds on the hillsides of Bethlehem. I don't how many angels are in a "multitude," but the scripture says it was a multitude of angels who gave praise to God, announced Jesus' birth, and said: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those he favors!"

The heavens are also prominent in the birth story, especially a new star in the heavens. Now astronomers tell us this new star was probably an unusual alignment of stars and planets. But they also admit that this "star"

occurred at the time of the birth of Jesus. Now, isn't that mysterious?

That star led the Magi, astronomers and scholars of the Zoroastrian faith, to honor Jesus – though it was likely that their journey took nearly a year. They knew the Hebrew Scriptures and knew that this new star in the heavens proclaimed the birth of a new king of the Jews. And so they travelled to find him and give him gifts befitting a King – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

To me, a part of the mystery of Jesus' birth is that most of the Jews who had been promised a Messiah, refused to believe that Jesus' birth was the birth of the Messiah, the king of the Jews.

And all this mystery brings great majesty to the birth of Jesus, and to our celebration of the birth of Jesus. The symbols and decorations of Advent and Christmas give majesty to the seasons. And each is a symbol of some mystery of the seasons.

I hope that in the Seasons of Advent and Christmas you will seek and find both the mystery and the majesty of Christmas.

Pastor Jack

*From all of the Lowe family --
Jack, Lorna, Tina, John,
Cory, Kate, Isabella & Kayla -
We wish for you and yours
a Most Merry Christmas!*

and a Blessed New Year of 2010!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM – WORSHIP



Worship Services

celebrate the birthday of Jesus the Christ.

Our worship on this Sunday will focus on the memories of Christmas. We will share memories of Christmas in several ways, remembering that we are preparing to

7:00 PM – AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS

MUSIC PRESENTED BY “OFFERING”

For many years, Pastor Ken Gray of Big Spring Baptist Church in Elliston has written new music for Christmas and arranged carols in new musical settings. Inviting other local musicians to join him, they are known as “OFFERING,” and will be at Peters Creek on December 6 for an Evening of Christmas Music at 7:00 PM. We invite all who come to bring a food item to donate to Southwest Second Harvest Food Bank.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM – CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Children's Christmas Program

only a child can share it.

The Children of the church, assisted by the youth, will present a drama during the morning worship. We believe that our children are the present church and involve them in worship each month in special ways. And in December, they share the Christmas Story with us in the way

NOON – ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Following the worship, the Women's and Men's Fellowships of Peters Creek are sponsoring the All-Church Christmas Dinner. This year's dinner will be a carry-in dinner with meats, breads, and beverages provided. All who attend are invited to bring a dish or two to share for



the dinner and enjoy the fellowship around the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 AM -- THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA:

“THE MYSTERY AND MAJESTY OF CHRISTMAS”



Filled with familiar words and melodies as well as new Christmas music, “The Mystery and Majesty of Christmas” tells the story of the birth of Jesus the Christ in scripture, word, and song.

The Chancel Choir of Peters Creek will present the Roanoke premiere of “The Mystery and Majesty of Christmas,” written by Joseph Martin. Mr. Martin is a world-renown writer of Christian music and also composes music for Disney.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:00 PM – CHRISTMAS EVE

COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHTING

Our Advent and Christmas Seasons culminate with our Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelighting at 6:00PM. The

Candlelight Worship Service



worship follows a tradition known as lessons and carols as it retells the Christmas story from words of prophecy through the birth narratives of the gospels.

Communion is offered to all by the ancient method of intinction, where a piece of bread is dipped into the cup of juice and then eaten.

Following communion, we celebrate Jesus the Light of the World by lighting individual candles which fill the darkened sanctuary with light. During the lighting of candles we join in singing the beloved carol: “ Silent night, holy night.”

It is a beautiful way to prepare the Christmas Day – the Celebration of the Birthday of Jesus our Lord and Savior.



The Women's Fellowship had their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 7, 2009. WHAT A SUCCESS it was. We would like to say a **"BIG THANK YOU"** to all

that participated in any way with the event; the volunteers, the Bazaar committee, those of you that donated food items and Christmas items, etc. We would like to also say a **"GRACIOUS THANK YOU"** to the Men's Fellowship for their participation and help with the event.

This year, the Women's Fellowship will host the Christmas dinner; look for more information for this soon!

As you know; the 2010 NEW YEAR will be upon us soon! A new slate of officers for the Women's Fellowship has been elected as follows:

- President – Vickie Wise
- Vice President – Gwen Kropff
- Secretary – Kathy Williams
- Treasurer – Charlene Lester

We, the Women's Fellowship have been very blessed to have had Sandra Carroll as our President and we would like to say a very **"SPECIAL THANK YOU"** for the leadership and all that you have done for us.

May we extend a WARM WELCOME INVITATION to anyone that would like to be a part of our fellowship.

All articles for the **January CONNEXION** should be to the church office by **Tuesday, December 15th**.



The Chancel choir will present "The Mystery and the Majesty" during the traditional worship service on December 20. From jubilant glorias to gentle manger lullabies, this inspirational cantata celebrate the wonder and splendor of Christmas.

The Busy Bees' Christmas luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, December 2** at **11:30AM**. We are planning a menu for the luncheon so see Lucile Weeks for the list.



The **Salem Christmas Parade** is **Friday, December 4** at **6:30PM**. We will meet at Landscape Enterprise, 745 Roanoke Street, Salem at 5:30PM or you may meet us in the line up. Our number is F-50. We will decorate the float on Thursday, December 3 around 6:00PM at Landscape Enterprise.

This year's theme is "TOY WORKSHOP." Please contact Darrell Hungate at 380-2748 for information.

HOLIDAY RECIPE

- 4 cups Love
- 2 cups Loyalty
- 3 cups Forgiveness
- 1 cup Friendship
- 4 Tbsp. Hope
- 2 Tbsp. Tenderness
- 4 qts. Faith
- 1 barrel of laughter



Take love and loyalty, mix it thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness, and understanding. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it with sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings.

Frances Marshall

The church office will be closed on **Friday, December 25th** in observance of Christmas Day.



- 3 – Paul Bruner
- 5 – Katherine Hamblin
- 12 – Randy Compton, Bob Goodman
- 13 – Barry Casteel
- 17 – Mike Mau, Mary Crowder
- 18 – Chris Mau, Joel Keith
- 19 – Tony Lawrence
- 26 – Betty Lou Carter
- 27 – Barbara Wright, Emily Ammermann
- 29 – George Walters
- 30 – Elmer Hash



BIRTHDAYS

-
- 1 – Clarence and Vickie Wise
 - 2 – Mike and Enid Mau
 - 21 – Darren and Robin Roberson



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Please notify the church office if you wish to be included in or make corrections to the birthday and anniversary list.

6
Dan Bayer, Ogretta Bayer, Royal Bond, Lois Burnette, Linda Broyles, Debbie Case, Eddie Carroll, Kirby Duncan, Dot Guthrie, David Hanson, Debbie Hartsock, Dale Hunt, Olen Hylton, Don King, Nannie King, Lillian McDonald, Doug McManus, Don Meredith, Seth Noel, Olive Pauley, Judy Pendleton, Lewis Peters, Ralph Plunkett, Cathie Rollison, Jack Shields, Brenda Smith, Evangeline Valera, Gracie Walker, Teresa Wimmer

Please notify the church office if you would like to add or remove a name from the prayer list.



Many thanks to everyone for all of their support and donations for the Epilepsy Awareness Stroll. We are blessed to have a terrific church family and appreciate all of you.

In Christ's love, Missy, Zac, Aiden and Cole Tuck

(Mary) wrapped (the baby) in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (NIV)



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Counters:

Richard Wright and Joyce Mullens

Deacons:

Merle and Rose Heckman

Sound System:

Darrell Hungate

Children's Storytime:

12/06 Brian Harmon

Greeters:

12/06 Joel and Cathy Keith

12/13 Jim and Gwen Kropff

12/20 Rick Halverson and Missy Carter

12/27 Olen and Lavene Hylton

Ushers:

12/06 Ammermann, Carter, Graffeo, Montgomery

12/13 Louthen, Cox, King, Boone

12/20 Mau, Clark, Walters, Wise

12/27 Kropff, Wright, Ammermann, Carter

Sunday School Nursery:

12/06 Rick Halverson

12/13 Cathy Keith

12/20 Denise and Warren Ory

12/27 Jeff Graffeo

Worship Nursery:

12/06 Rose Heckman

12/13 Linda Pulz

12/20 Kathy Otey

12/27 Sandi Broughman

Scripture Readers:

12/06 Merle Heckman

12/13 Charlene Lester

12/20 Pam Clark

12/27 Cathy Keith

Children's Church:

12/06 Enid and Katherine Mau

12/13 Children's Church (Cancelled)

12/20 Children's Church (Cancelled)

12/27 Enid and Katherine Mau



Remember our shut-ins during the holiday

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS:

Ida Bower, Judson and Virginia Bowles, Julia Conner, Katherine Hamblin, Anna Belle Plunkett, Katie Rhodes, Muriel Turner, Mary Yarbrough

