



December 4, 2015

The Biblical lessons for the four weeks of Advent don't tell the story the way we would want. Rather than give a straight forward narrative from Old Testament prophecy to our Saviors birth in Bethlehem, the Bible readings hopscotch around Luke's gospel with carefree abandon. In fact, the story gets told backwards, beginning with Jesus' predictions about the end of the age. We finally get around to Mary's pregnancy the fourth week. Advent messes with our sense of time.

In the introduction to New Testament class in seminary, we are told there are two Greek words we translate as time. One is *chronos*, and it names a kind of time with which we count and track everyday events in our lives. It is time measured in minutes and seconds and days. It is mundane, ordinary time and we all know how it beats on relentlessly. *Chronos* is the time of history or in our digital age "real time."

There is another kind of time at play in the imagination of the gospel writers. It is captured by the Greek word *Kairos*. This is God's time and it punctures through the mundane clock of our lives at unexpected intervals. *Kairos* moments are those instances when we catch a glimpse of God.

Christmas is a time when we all hope to catch a glimpse of the life we want God to give us. That is why the holiday is so difficult for so many people. Christmas has a way of bringing human brokenness to the surface. Siblings that haven't spoken in decades, parents mourning children lost in every conceivable way, and neighborhoods reeling from racial injustice, all this seems to surface at Christmas time. If you follow the cartoon series "Sally Forth," Ted visits his family at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Ted, who is pretty strange, is still the healthiest of the four boys in his family. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, Ted and his family travel to the family home in hopes of a better reception. But soon his juvenile brothers pick on him. His Dad, who is incompetent as a father and a husband, throws out a few very hurtful remarks and then retreats to his garage. Meanwhile, his mother continues to live in oblivion. But Ted keeps coming back stealing himself to not react to the slights and to try to mend the brokenness and hurt. He is hoping to catch a glimpse of God's redemption. Will this be the year?

In Advent we try to help everyone discover the hope they need at this particular moment in your life. Like the gospel readings, our lives are a mishmash of past, present, and a hoped for, or in some cases, dreaded, future. Everything comes together when we arrive on Christmas Eve. I like how the carol says it, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

In an effort to help our children and new families participate more fully in the story of Jesus' birth, we have made some changes to our 6:00 PM Christmas Eve family service. There will be a Children's Sermon by Justin; he plans to read a poem he has written in the spirit of "The Night Before Christmas." The children will also be teaching the congregation a song that they have been learning in Children's Church. Then, instead of sending the children out to eat a birthday cake for Jesus, we are adding some dramatic elements to the Christmas homily. We will sing carols that are upbeat and familiar to children. We can expect that many joyful noises will be made while having the children in for the entire service. The service will run around 50 minutes and will now include a candle lighting ceremony. We have ordered 50 battery powered electric "candles" for the children. We will trust adults with the real wax version.

We are also offering a Youth and Children's Christmas Play at the 10:30 AM service on December 20th. The play is titled, "A Rock and Roll Nativity." The play will feature music from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 2000s; from artists such as the Goo Goo Dolls, Bon Jovi, and Styx. The Children and

Youth have been practicing very hard and we are hoping for a great turnout for that Sunday! Justin will be giving a short sermon titled "WWYD". Susan has also planned special Christmas music that starts at 10:15 AM and a reception for Kathryn and Dave McCarty will follow the service. It is going to be a great day!

A reminder to parents: our Red clad visitor from the North Pole will arrive after the 10:30 AM service on December 13th. The kids who are practicing for the play will be let out in small groups to sit on the jolly old man's lap for pictures. Also, throughout the season, we will also be adding some new Advent hymns and a few new Christmas carols. All of the tunes are familiar. I hope these changes will provide opportunities for God to break into your life and bless you in new and unexpected ways.

Grace and peace,

James Brassard and Justin Devine



CCPC's Christmas Post Office

The Christmas Post Office is Back!

The Christmas Post Office is now open! To help facilitate the sorting and delivery of your Christmas cards, the Youth ask that you observe the following courtesies:

- 1.) Please arrange your cards in alphabetical order with a rubber band around them
- 2.) Do not bring cards for out of town or shut in members
- 3.) Please pick up your cards by January 3rd

Donations for postage will go to the Youth Mission trip next summer.
Kim Tavel is the coordinator of this service.



Santa Clause is Coming to Town!

That's right folks, Santa will be visiting CCPC on Sunday, December 13th at 11:30 AM in the Atrium. Pictures will be taken, so bring the kids and grand-kids!

Worship Notes

December 6th: Second Sunday of Advent: Communion. The gospel writer Luke likes to name drop when he announces the arrival of John the Baptist. He sets John among the headline leaders of his day and tells everyone to check their spiritual compass and check the direction their lives are taking. John calls for repentance. Repentance has gotten mixed up with remorse and dread. But repentance has nothing to do with feeling sorry—about yourself or for yourself. It is something quite positive and revolutionary. Text is *Luke 3:1-6*

December 13th: Jesus had a favorite Old Testament prophet: Isaiah. Isaiah writes about hope. Advent is mostly about hope. Hope is about something unexpected reviving us, something fresh and new. What do you hope for at Christmas?

Announcements

Please pick up your 2016 offering envelopes in the Atrium.
Contact Sandy Dorsey at sancath1@aol.com or 240-271-4052 if you need envelopes. Thank you.

The McCarty's are Moving! Yee haw!
On December 20th, the adventure starts! Our new address:
499 Perch Horizon, San Antonio, TX 78253
Our cell phones & e-mail will remain the same:
Dave: 240-441-9141 / Kathryn: 301-922-5562, kathrynomccarty@yahoo.com
Thank you all for everything.
Love: Dave, Kathryn, Caroline & Sam McCarty

Dear CCPC and all of you who showed me special kindness during my convalescence, I have healed from the four fractures to my right shoulder and nerve damage to my right elbow, wrist, and arm. So you can say I have been totally unable to care for myself since late July to the present time. I want you to know that I am grateful to be part of a loving and caring church community and can't wait to get back. I miss the choir and hope to be able to hum a tune this holiday. Thanks to God and thanks to all of you.

Von

Many, many thanks for all the prayers, calls, notes, and expressions of sympathy on the loss of my sister, Poncie Matalon. My trip to San Diego for the memorial in November went well, and as a family we had time to share good memories. Your concerns are most appreciated.

Blessings,
Priscilla Bouic

Dear CCPC Family,
Words alone cannot express the deep appreciation and gratitude we feel toward our CCPC family for your outpouring of love and support during the recent visitations and service for my husband and our father, John Joseph Scott. During a very difficult time, you helped us navigate the troubled waters to focus on a life well lived and recall the promise of life everlasting. We are eternally thankful, and bless the day we came your way.
Love: Audrey, Lawrence, Bryan, Kenneth, and Edward Scott



Merry Christmas!

Youth Christmas Party!

A Youth Christmas party will be held at 7 PM at the Casto's home (12605 Kembridge Dr.). All 6th—12th graders are welcome to attend. There will be a white elephant and regular gift exchange as well as plenty of food and fun!

And

Don't forget our

Children's Christmas Play

will be on

**Sunday, December 20th
during the 10:30 AM service**

All play practices are in the Sanctuary on:

December 6th from 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM

December 10th at 6 to 7:30 PM

December 13th from 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM

December 17th from 6 to 7:30 PM

December 19th from 10 AM to 2 PM



Christmas Families

Schedule

Sunday 12/6	Gifts Due. Final Deadline for Gift Drop Off by 12 Noon.
Wednesday 12/9	Setup Dodds Hall for Gift Sorting and Wrapping from 9PM—10PM.
Thursday 12/10	Sort and Check Gifts 9AM-5PM and Sort, Check, and Wrap Gifts 6-9PM.
Friday 12/11	Gift Wrapping from 9AM-3PM & 5-9PM, bring your own scissors, tape, pen / Pickup Food from Aldi's at 2PM.
Saturday 12/12	Gift Wrapping from 9AM-2PM, bring your own scissors, tape, pen. Reset Dodds Hall for Food Sorting at 2PM.
Sunday 12/13	Baked Goods Due by 11:30AM / Food Sorting 11:30AM-1PM . Consolidate Gifts & Groceries 1-2:30PM.
Monday 12/14	Pickup Food at Aldi's at 7AM / Family Pickup/Delivery at 9AM-1PM and 6PM-9PM.
Tuesday 12/15	Pickup/Delivery Makeup Day, if needed and Cleanup Dodds Hall 9AM - Noon.

Christmas Eve

Worship Services

We will have two worship services on Christmas Eve.

The first one will be a candlelight family-oriented service that starts at 6 PM.

The second one will be a candlelight communion service that starts at 8:30 PM.

We hope you will join us.



Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Christmas poinsettias will be here on December 18th.
We will have 7" pots with 30 reds, 6 whites, 6 pinks, and 12 marble.
The price is \$13.50 each.

All orders must be in by Sunday, December 13th.

Your Name _____

Phone# _____

Given in **memory** of or in **honor** of.

Please circle memory or honor and print the name(s) clearly on the lines below)

_____ Memory or Honor

_____ Memory or Honor

_____ Memory or Honor

7" Poinsettia - Qty. _____ @ \$13.50 each for a **TOTAL** of \$ _____

(Specify color) _____ red _____ white _____ pink _____ marble

Thank you so much for your generous contribution. The Flower Committee.

You may cut out this form, fill it out, and bring it along with payment and put it in the Flower Committees mailbox in the church office.

Any questions, please contact Judyann Feinstein at
judith.a.glazener@gmail.com or 301-262-2840.

PWOC *Winter Potluck!*



On Sunday, December 6, after the 10:30AM worship service, the Women of CCPC will gather in Dodds Hall for a Christmas potluck.

Bring a dish to share and be prepared to tell the ladies at your table about a special Christmas or a favorite family tradition.

We are delighted to have a musical program provided for us by some very talented young CCPC women. You won't want to miss this opportunity for food, fellowship and entertainment!



Adult Education Classes

December 2015

On December 6, Wayne Smith will discuss the clash between Old and New America in the early 20th century. The centerpiece of this discussion is a historical document which Wayne claims is the most intriguing piece of evidence he has seen since he saw the Magna Carta.

On December 13, Justin Devine will explain the Mission Trip to Mexico. He will share stories from his 13 trips from 2000-2015. He will take questions and show some video highlights of past trips. He will discuss the pressing issues of need and the area as well as address the issue of travel safety while in Mexico.



Honduras Mission

2016

The Living Waters for the World Honduras Mission Team is excited about its trip to Coclan, Honduras, January 15—23, to install a clean water system and educate the adults and children in the use of clean water. Members of the team are Judyann Feinstein, Becca Jonas, Julia Leaman, Sara Rogel, Paul Sell, and Charles and Marjorie Tanner. Julia and Paul, who attended Clean Water U in October, are making their first trip to Honduras.

As you can imagine, there is a lot of preparation to be done for this trip. On Saturday, January 9, at CCPC from 9—12 Noon, we will have a work morning to make name tags, assemble folders for adult education, and cut out items for use with our vacation Bible school curriculum. We could really use your help. Come join us on January 9th and be a part of this ministry which will help bring clean water to the people of Coclan!



New Year's Resolution!

**Need a New Years' Resolution
and You Have the 2nd and 4th
Tuesday Morning's Free?**

Consider joining the Lady Tigers Book Group in the church Parlor for an opportunity to stretch your mind. For more info call Anne Shelby at (301) 262-1412 or Bea Uehling at 410) 741-1883.
As they say use it or lose it!



December 5 — 13, 2015

Saturday, December 5, 2015

7:30 AM Men's Book Group -- Panera Bread
1:00 PM Setup for Sunday Luncheon -- Dodds Hall
3:00 PM Ricci Rogel Music Studio Recital -- Sanctuary & Atrium

Sunday, December 6, 2015

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
9:30 AM Christian Education: What was the clash between Old America and Young America?
9:30 AM Parents in the Parlor -- Parlor
10:30 AM Worship Service with Communion -- Sanctuary
11:30 AM Christmas Program Practice -- Sanctuary
11:45 AM PWOC Winter Potluck -- Dodds Hall

12 Noon DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS FAMILIES GIFT DROP OFF

2:00 PM Private Event -- Dodds Hall
5:30 PM Mission Amor Trip Parents Meeting -- Adult Ed Conf Rm
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Monday, December 7, 2015

11:00 AM Monday Morning Lectionary -- Adult Ed Conf Rm
7:30 PM Tiger Lilies -- Parlor

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

8:00 AM Tax Aide Training -- Dodds Hall
10:00 AM Lady Tigers -- Parlor
6:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale -- Dodds Hall
7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

8:00 AM Paper Tigers -- Dodds Hall Classroom
10:30 AM Prayer/Study/Healing Group -- Doris Kobe's Home
1:00 PM Joy Circle -- Members' Homes
6:00 PM Southern Comforter's Quilt Guild - Dinner -- Dodds Hall
6:30 7:00 PM Celebration Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary

Thursday, December 10, 2015

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES Sort and Check Gifts (9AM-5PM) and Sort, Check, and Wrap Gifts (6-9PM)

3:30 PM Tutoring by Justin -- Adult Ed Conf Rm
6:00 PM Christmas Play Practice -- Sanctuary

Friday, December 11, 2015

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES Gift Wrapping (9AM-3PM & 5PM-9PM, bring scissors/tape/pen)

9:00 AM Knits with Sticks -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

Saturday, December 12, 2015

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES Gift Wrapping 9AM-2PM (bring scissors/tape/pen). Reset Dodds Hall at 2PM

Sunday, December 13, 2015

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES Food Sorting (11:30AM-1PM). Consolidate Gifts & Groceries (1-2:30PM)

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary
9:30 AM Christian Education: Our Mission Trip to Mexico
9:30 AM Parents in the Parlor -- Parlor
10:30 AM Worship Service -- Sanctuary
11:30 AM Christmas Play Practice -- Sanctuary
11:30 AM Visit with Santa -- Atrium
6:30 PM Discovery Circle -- Parlor
6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

December 14—25, 2015

Monday, December 14, 2015

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES Family Pickup & Delivery (9AM-1PM and 6-9PM)

11:00 AM Monday Morning Lectionary -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

7:30 PM Session -- Conference Room

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES Family Pickup & Delivery Makeup Day, if needed. Cleanup Dodds Hall.

12 Noon Gadabouts -- Carrabba's in Bowie

6:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale -- Dodds Hall

7:00 PM Outreach & Parish Life Meeting -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

8:00 AM Paper Tigers Breakfast -- Dodds Hall Classroom

10:30 AM Prayer/Study/Healing Group -- Doris Kobe's Home

7:00 PM Celebration Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary

Thursday, December 17, 2015

3:30 PM Tutoring by Justin -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

5:00 PM BSA Troop #1009 Holiday Party -- Dodds Hall

6:00 PM Christmas Play Practice -- Sanctuary

7:00 PM Clinquant Rehearsal -- Choir Room

Friday, December 18, 2015

7:00 PM Youth Christmas Party -- The Casto's Home (12605n Kembridge Dr.)

Saturday, December 19, 2015

7:30 AM Men's Book Group -- Panera Bread

10:00 AM Christmas Play Practice -- Sanctuary

Sunday, December 20, 2015

8:30 AM Chapel Worship Service -- Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship Service with Children's Christmas Play -- Sanctuary

11:30 AM Reception for the McCarty's -- Dodds Hall

6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Monday, December 21, 2015

10:00 AM Hope Circle -- Members' Homes

1:00 PM Knits with Sticks -- Parlor

7:00 PM Sea Scout Ship 1009 (BSA) -- Dodds Hall Classroom

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

10:00 AM Lady Tigers -- Parlor

6:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale -- Dodds Hall

7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

10:30 AM Prayer/Study/Healing Group -- Doris Kobe's Home

6:00 PM Southern Comforters Quilt Guild -- Dodds Hall

7:00 PM Celebration Choir Rehearsal -- Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24, 2015

6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service -- Sanctuary

8:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service -- Sanctuary

Friday, December 25, 2015

Merry Christmas!! CCPC Offices Closed

December 26—31, 2015

Saturday, December 26, 2015

No Events Scheduled

Sunday, December 27, 2015 (ONE SERVICE ONLY)

10:30 AM Worship Service -- Sanctuary

6:30 PM Youth Group -- Sr. High Room

Monday, December 28, 2015

11:00 AM Monday Morning Lectionary -- Adult Ed Conf Rm

7:00 PM Grace and Glory Circle -- Members' Homes

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

6:00 PM Chesapeake Chorale -- Dodds Hall

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

10:30 AM Prayer/Study/Healing Group -- Doris Kobe's Home

Thursday, December 31, 2015

No Events Scheduled



Merry Christmas
and a
Blessed New Year!