

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

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ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The all-church Christmas dinner will be after morning worship on Sunday, December 5th. The cost is \$9.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 5-10 years old, and children under 5 are free. The menu for the wonderful meal is: roast prime rib of beef, snowflake rosemary whipped potatoes, fresh steamed asparagus with lemon butter, steamed winter mix fresh vegetables, fresh tossed greens with pomegranate and honey poppy-seed vinaigrette, warm fruit cobbler w/whipped cream, hot dinner rolls w/butter, coffee, tea & water. Please make your reservations on the envelope in your pew. After the dinner, members of the sanctuary choir will share some Christmas songs, and Hugh Henderson will lead us in a moment of preparation for our commitment to the church for 2011.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Our Cantata this year is a beautiful mixture of music and drama. The cantata “O Holy Night” will be the message at our 10:15 worship service on December 12. We will hear the story of the Christ child’s birth through the perspectives of a number of different biblical characters; Isaiah, Jeremiah, the angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph, a lowly shepherd, and a very wise man. The choir will be singing both old favorites and new songs of this most wonderful season. We are excited about our message this year and hope that you will be able to join us as we praise God with the gifts that He has given us. Our joy in our Savior will surely shine through as we worship Him in music, song, and drama. Come be a part of this inspiring worship service on December 12th. I pray that this Christmas season will be full of joy, hope, and love for all. In Christ, Jan

NATIVITY SET

Advent is here. It is time to decorate the church and our homes in honor of the birth of our Lord. As part of our celebration and worship, the CYF youth will begin selling raffle tickets for the opportunity to win a large hand-carved Nativity set from Bethlehem. The ticket will be only \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be on December 12, immediately after church. All proceeds will go towards their mission trip next summer to the Holy Land.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Christmas Poinsettia list is now in the narthex. The cost of the poinsettias this year is \$17.00. Please sign up and select a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one.

THE 2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

It is that time of the year when we focus our attention on our commitments to the Lord in 2011. Our theme this year is “2010 + 10 = 2011.” The meaning of the numbers are for each one of us to continue what we shared with the church in 2010 and to add on 10% which will equal our commitment for 2011. So if you shared \$5000 with the church in 2010, you would add on \$500, to share \$5500 in 2011. The following is a calendar of the different events that will highlight our Stewardship Campaign:

Sunday, Nov. 28 - Hugh Henderson, Chair, will share a stewardship devotion in worship.

Monday, Nov. 29 – Commitment cards will be mailed to all church members and friends.

Sunday, Dec. 5 – Hugh Henderson will lead us in a celebration of “2010 + 10 = 2011” at our All-church Christmas Dinner.

Sunday, Dec. 19 – We will dedicate our commitments received in morning worship.

Please pray about your commitment to the church in 2011. Together, we can make a difference.

BUSY BELIEVERS DECEMBER GATHERING

The Busy Believers will have a Christmas Gathering at the home of Darren and Julie Williamson. Everyone is invited to bring their children as well as a dish to share. The Williamsons will provide the main dish. They have asked that if everyone could bring an appetizer or a desert - or if they want to volunteer for one of the sides that would be great. In addition a Christmas gift that can be shared with a family in need. The Gathering will be Friday, December 17, at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to jdwilliam@bellsouth.net. More information will be sent via email.

TIRED OF TURKEY YET?

The CYF will be taking orders for those delicious Boston Butts on Sunday, Nov. 28th. They will be delivered fully cooked and ready to eat on Thursday December 9th. The cost is \$30.00. They will be perfect for holiday parties and family meals. Also, this time we will be selling smoked hams for \$40. They are as tasty as the Boston Butts. Thank you as always for your support! *The Youth Groups*

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP?

Do you, or someone you know, need some help lifting, moving stuff around, transportation, doctor trips, light construction, tree/limb removal, yard work or other tasks that are difficult for you or them? The James Gang & The Hands of the Carpenter are ready and available to see if we can provide this assistance. We are only a phone call away. Please call the church at 991-5000.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, November 28th

“Christian Apologetics Pantheist”

People of Different Gods

SUNDAY’S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	62
WORSHIP	146

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Life In Our Community

Sunday, November 28

- 9:00 Sunday School
9:45 -10:15 Fellowship Moments
10:15 Worship Service
10:30 Worship & Wonder
4:00 Pastor's Class
4:30 Christmas Play Rehearsal

Monday, November 29

- 7:00 Men's Christmas Breakfast
10:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, November 30

- 9:45 Chapel
10:00 Women's Bible Study
6:30 Caring & Sharing
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, December 1

- 6:30 Choir Rehearsal
7:00 Cantata Practice

Thursday, December 2

- 7:00 Women's Bible Study
7:00 Men's Bible Study

Saturday, December 4

- 9-1:00 Cantata Practice

GRACE NOTES

- † Our prayers are with Regena Varvoutis in the loss of her mother.
† Our joy is with Brad and Collins Brown who were married in the sanctuary on Saturday, November 20.
† Come and help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, November 27 at 10:00 am.

SPREAD THE LIGHT

Sunday, November 28, is the first Sunday in Advent when we begin to celebrate the birth our Lord. The CYF youth will once again accept your donations of \$5.00 or more in honor or memory of a loved one. These donations will help the youth to **Spread the Light** of Christ on their Mission Trip - which this year will be to the Holy Land. The youth have created a special Christmas card - a gift to you - to share with others if you wish, in lieu of a Christmas gift. Often times it is difficult to find that perfect gift for our family and friends. However, when you give a gift to the **Spread the Light** project, you will help the youth spread the Light of Christ in the land where He walked *and* you will be able to send your friends a Christmas card letting them know you have honored them with a special gift. Also, your name and those you have honored will be placed in our Christmas Eve Bulletins.

CHURCH HISTORY CONTINUED

Active planning for a Single Adult Ministry began in the fall of 1990. This ministry was needed to provide singles with positive fellowship and interaction with others within the context of the Christian faith and to enable participants to nurture others in various areas of the church.

The annual Regional Women's Retreat was held at Hargis in October with 25 from our church in attendance. Sunday Sideboard continued at Hargis, and about 5000 children and adults went through "Pumpkin Patch", the Outdoor Education program for the month. The youth groups sponsored an Open Mike Night at church, a fun-filled evening of food, fellowship, music and sharing of talents. This was a fundraiser for Youth Outreach in Action, and all were invited to share their talents and to support others as they shared their talents.

The Pony Express stewardship campaign, under the leadership of Fletcher Hamilton, began on October 21 with everyone asked to come in the costume of a favorite western character, real or fictional. Trail Bosses (campaign workers) were commissioned by the pastor, and their saddlebags were distributed at a High Noon meal following worship. There was also another semi-annual shopping trip to Boaz in October.

The TAN 4 and 5-year-olds ate with the Monday Lunch Bunch again in November and delighted everyone with a program which included the first public appearance of the 5-year-old hand bell group led by Jim Brooks. Advent Workshops were held on two Saturdays in November, and youth groups enjoyed a Regional Autumn Retreat at Hargis. The traditional Thanksgiving worship service and dinner were also held at the Retreat.

The Seekers Class sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive, and 26 people donated their blood to help give others the gift of life.

Mrs. Margaret Giltner had been hospitalized for several weeks recovering from a fall and would soon be moving to California to live with her daughter. A Book of Memories was planned as a gift to her, and the congregation was asked to give pictures, written thoughts and remembrances to be included in the book. Margaret had been with us for 30 years since Dr. Tom Giltner became our minister in 1960, and it was hard to say goodbye to this dear friend.

It was wonderful to experience Hanging of the Greens in our new sanctuary after years of worship in the Family Life Center and 18 months prior to that at Gresham Jr. High School. The children presented a special musical followed by dinner on December 16, with our family Christmas dinner and celebration a week later on December 23. All who came were guests "In Bethlehem Inn". After dinner everyone had an opportunity to go to the stable and to see the Holy Family.