



Central Presbyterian Church
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
(870) 879-9074



Sunday, December 1, 2013
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We begin a new year in the church as we prepare for Christ's Advent. It is a time of watching and waiting. A new day has dawned. God's gift of life is renewed in you and in me.

People: **We thank God for this Advent Season to remind us of the gift of His Son, and His promised return.**

Leader: Our thankfulness ought to result in an honest expression of love for one another, that we may be prepared for the Advent of our Lord.

All: **May God cause our love for one another to grow more and more. Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.**

***OPENING HYMN #2** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the Past, in the wilderness You sent a messenger to prepare human hearts for the coming of Christ. We rejoice that through the centuries that message of hope has brought confidence and joy to all people.

God of the Present, even now, You are among us. Forgive us, for often we have failed to discern Your presence with us, and have felt deserted and alone. Make strong in our hearts the faith that enables us to live serenely and triumphantly.

God of the Future, You have promised that Christ's reign is coming. Teach us to live in expectation, that what we are to do today may be anchored in the certainty of Your tomorrow. Through the gift of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN #44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 3)*

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The words of the psalmist remind us that the Lord is upright and good.

People: **God instructs sinners in the way of righteousness and leads the humble along paths of steadfast love.**

Leader: So wait upon God all the day long, abide in the covenant, and rely on the truth:

People: **God is our salvation and worthy of trust.**

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

***GLORIA PATRI** ("Glory be to the Father") *Hymnal #579*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Come, Emmanuel, Come* Besig

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG ONES

Preschool-aged children may go to the nursery after the children's message. Children of kindergarten age and above may remain in worship.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 2:1-5

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Let Us Begin...Again* Rev. John Barklind

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostle’s Creed (Traditional) p.14 Hymnal
*HYMN #29 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Jesu, Meines Glaubens Zier Bach

*DOXOLOGY ("Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow") Hymnal #592

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS (You are each encouraged to give voice to your concerns or to name those for whom you Love and pray.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER (We use debts and debtors.)

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #31 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE** Hail to the Lord’s Anointed Balcombe

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

Go forth into the world with rejoicing to love and serve the Lord.

* Those who are able, please stand.

** Please be seated and remain for the postlude if you can.

Ushers: Sue and Frank Merritt Lay Reader: Bill Detmers

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church where we come together **to celebrate God’s love, nurture growth, share our faith and serve the needs of others.** This Congregation opens wide its doors and our hearts and offers welcome to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Guest Pastor Rev. John Barklind	Secretary Erin Shaw
Choirmaster/Organist Marty Shell	Nursery Attendant Laura Cosner
Youth Sponsors Marty Shell George Mosley Amber Poss	Website: www.centralprespb.com Member Login: cpcmember Member Psswd: 6300trinity



The Session (Board of Elders)	
<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Lawrence Fikes	Tommy Dunlap
Steven Howsen	Jo Weaver
George Mosley	Lan Kelley
Dana Neal	Pat Drewett
Laura Pierce (Clerk)	Bill Detmers

Standing Committee Moderators	
Lawrence Fikes	Budget & Finance
Steven Howsen	Building & Grounds
George Mosley	
Dana Neal	Education
Tommy Dunlap	Fellowship & Nurture
Pat Drewett	
Jo Weaver	Missions & Outreach
Bill Detmers	
Lan Kelley	Worship & Music

Announcements

Neighbor to Neighbor’s Holiday Projects Are Underway! Central has been asked to provide 100 cans of cranberry sauce by today, December 1, for the Christmas baskets. Cans may be placed in the box behind the round table in McElyea Hall.

All Are Invited to Join us this evening at 5:30 p.m., in the sanctuary for the Moravian Love Feast. The Moravian Love Feast is an annual tradition here at Central, one which has grown and developed over the years. Folks are invited to bring sweet breads, soup, and sandwiches to share. We will gather as members of the family of God, and together we will seek God’s blessing for our community and for our world.

The Church Office Is Accepting Orders for poinsettias. They will be placed in the sanctuary beginning December 15, and will remain through December 26. If you prefer not to purchase an actual plant, you may designate your gift for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund instead. To place an order, please one of the forms on the round table in the Narthex, and return it to the church office by December 15. The cost is \$12.50.

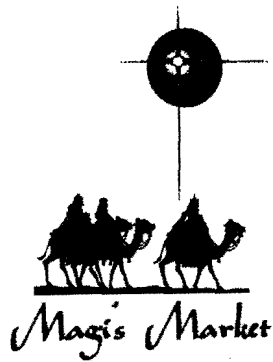
Lectionary Year A Begins today, December 1.

The Evening Circle Will Meet Monday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m., in the Perdue Library

The Morning Circle Will Meet Tuesday, December 10, at 10 a.m., in the Perdue Library.

Announcements continued on insert

The Magi's Market



Does the Christmas rush give you a holiday low? Are you having a hard time finding that perfect, special gift? Wouldn't you love to give an important and memorable gift which may mean life to someone in your hometown or a poor and hungry child far away? Well, here's your chance, and you don't have to step foot in a single store!

Welcome to the Magi's Market. The Missions Committee, in cooperation with First Presbyterian, is again offering the opportunity for you to purchase gifts for family and friends while supporting important mission ministries in our church, our community, and around the world. Instead of the traditional tie or nightgown, you might choose to sponsor a Haitian child or provide utility assistance for the poor. Your friends and/or family members will receive a Christmas card acknowledging a gift in their honor from you, and the ministry you choose will receive 100% of your financial donation to use as you have specified.

This event will be held during the month of December. Booklets are available on the round table in the Narthex. Orders may be placed in the church office until December 24. Contact the church office for questions or more information.

Please be in prayer for our successful participation in this unique occasion to give meaningful gifts in the true Spirit of Christmas.

It Is Time for Wrap it Up!

Overwhelmed by the thought of holiday gift wrapping? Let us do the work! On Saturday, December 14 & 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you can bring your items to the Youth/Activities building to have them wrapped. The price list is as follows:

Small Gifts-\$3.00
CD's, Books, jewelry, candles.

Medium Gifts-\$5.00
Shirt sized boxes, board games, dolls, calendars, and shoe boxes.

Large Gifts-\$10.00
Large clothes boxes, coats, small kitchen appliances.

All benefits from Wrap it Up will benefit Central Presbyterian Women's Missions. For more information or to volunteer, contact Laura Pierce (870-247-5392).



Isaiah 2:1-5

- 2:1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2:2 In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.
- 2:3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
- 2:5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24:36-44

- 24:36 "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- 24:37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- 24:38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,
- 24:39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.
- 24:40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 24:41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
- 24:42 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- 24:43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.
- 24:44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour

Come, Emmanuel, Come

All of the world is awaiting a king,
Anxiously seeking the joy He will bring.
Soon He will be with us,
God's love revealed to us.
Come, Emmanuel, Come

We must believe that the moment is near,
Faithfully knowing He soon will appear,
Cast every doubt away, let us prepare the way.
Come, Emmanuel, Come.

Soon angels will sing,
Earth and heaven will ring.
Soon, soon He will come
The world will know God's Son.

Out of the darkness will come a great light
Radiantly guiding us on through the night.
Then we will welcome Him,
We will rejoice in Him.
Come, Emmanuel Come.

Soon heaven will shine,
God will send us a sign,
Soon, soon we will see
How great God's love can be.

Now let us watch and prepare for the King,
Humbly awaiting the joy He will bring,
Let us believe in Him, Open our hearts to Him,
Come, Emmanuel, Come.

Announcements (cont.)

There Will Be a Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, December 15, at the end of worship. The purpose will be to accept the Nominating Committee's report for the Session Class of 2015.

The Session Will Meet Sunday, December 15, following morning worship, in the conference room

The Christmas Joy Offering Will Be Received December 22, during morning worship.

Central's Choir Will Present *"Behold the Star" a Christmas Journey to the Light of Christ* by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 22, during morning worship. All are invited to share in this special presentation.

The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Has Been Moved to the 4th Sunday, December 22, following morning worship. It will be a regular potluck. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.

Copies of the 2014 Budget are available on the round table in the Narthex.

Is Your Pledge Up-to-Date? Member contribution reports are available by request from the church office.

2014 Offering Envelopes are available. They are located on the table in the Narthex.

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2013

MEMBERS:

Bill Detmers
Agnes Hughes
Mildred Turner
Nelson Buchanan
Bernice and Gene Lackey
Mary Wooten

Valerie Reichen
Jo Weaver
Bea Magee
Nell Horne
Hester Insley
Mildred Gaunt

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Carolyn Mebane, former member
Marie Shell, mother of Marty Shell
Orrin Robinson, friend of the church
Doris McCoy, mother of Kay Cromwell
Kathleen Martin, friend of the Mosley family
Pat Mosley, mother of George Mosley
Freddie Maxwell, friend of the Neal family
Joe Ward, uncle of Dana Neal
Mary Ward, mother of Dana Neal
Al Glover, former member
Marla Shapiro, cousin of Laura Cosner
Dan Loomis, former pastor
Marlene Chambliss, mother-in-law of Suzy & Rose's younger sisters
Miranda Goldman, daughter of Suzy VonTungeln's coworker
Judy Fetters, friend of Rose and Suzy VonTungeln
Richard Harrison, friend and customer of Laura Cosner
Kasey Kenward, friend of the Cosner Family

Matthew Stoddard, nephew of Amanda Chandler's co-worker
Terry Hill, friend of Laura Cosner
John Hensley, friend of Laura and Rick Pierce
Kristina Ward, friend of Amanda and Michael Chandler
Nancy Mugford, friend Laura and Dan
Judy Curry, Jo Weaver's hairdresser
Ray Nitcher, friend of Jo Weaver
Zach Towers, friend of Austin Howsen
Franklin Ward, uncle of Dana Neal
Brad Morris, nephew of Bernice Lackey
Kelly Robinson, friend of Karen & David Perdue
Marian Parks, aunt of Bill Detmers
Cissy Bailey, sister-in-law of Betty Coles
Anne Logan, friend of Jo Weaver
Tracy Robinson, friend of Karen & David Perdue
Carla Fenessee, friends of Laura & Rick Pierce
Brooke Wells, granddaughter of Connie & Bill Detmers
Helen Gaunt, sister-in-law of Mildred Gaunt

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

First, Paragould

Church Custodians

OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD:

Keith Camferdam, Air Force
Josh May, Army

Kyle Glover, Army

To share your joys and concerns or to update the information listed in this week's Joys & Concerns, contact the church office at 879-9074, fax 879-9076, or email the church at centralpc@cablelynx.com.