



Let There Be Christmas

**Presented by the Combined Choirs of Central and First Presbyterian Churches
Sunday, December 22, 2015
Central Presbyterian Church
Pine Bluff, AR 71603**

Central Presbyterian

& First Presbyterian

Sunday, December 20, 2015

4th Sunday of Advent

GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

CHORAL PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Helmore

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE *The Howsen Family*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. King: With Hope, we have waited for the birth of the Christ-child;

People: **We wait for Christ to be born in us today.**

Rev. Wiggins: With Peace, we pray for the world, we pray for our communities;

People: **We pray that the Prince of Peace will reign in our hearts.**

Rev. King: With Joy, we expectantly prepare for the Good News of the Messiah;

People: **Joyfully we celebrate that Christ is coming again.**

Rev. Wiggins: With Love, we give selflessly, knowing God has given us the most loving gift;

People: **God's love is in us, through the gift of Jesus the Christ.**

Rev. King: As we worship, as we sing, as we pray, as we listen, as we focus on God's love and put aside the things of this world that burden us,

All: **May Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love shine forth from us to the world, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen!**

***OPENING HYMN: #82** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

FILLING OF THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Rev. King

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

“Gracious God, as we come to another Christmas we confess that we have not kept promises we made last Christmas. Forgive us for being too caught up on the Christmas around us and not in the Christmas that heralds your entrance into our world. Move within us and help us to be surprised and full of joy as we experience your presence where we wouldn’t have expected it.” (Silent Prayer) “In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen”

KYRIE ELEISON

572

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie

John Merbecke, 1550
Arr. Healey Willan, 1930

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Music: Arrangement reprinted with the permission of the executor of the estate of Healey Willan.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Wiggins: Hear the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Amen!

***GLORIA PATRI** ("Glory be to the Father")

Hymnal #581

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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

GOSPEL READING

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Micah 5:2 - 5

Luke 1:39 - 56

Don Harris, Jr.

Rev. Wiggins

Rev. Wiggins

Rev. King

Let There Be Christmas

A Cantata by Joseph M. Martin

Christmas Overture

During the Christmas Overture, the choir will present a special gift to the congregation.

During today's performance, you have many opportunities to sing with us. Please follow the bulletin and join with us in this celebration.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Words:
JOHN FRANCIS WADÉ (1711-1780)

Tune: ADESTE FIDELLES
by JOHN FRANCIS WADÉ
Arranged by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

CONGREGATION



song 1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant O
choir 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion
come in 3. Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem
Sing all ye en - i - zens of heav - en a - bove,
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n



Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est O
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



come let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, O



come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.



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**Choir only: Come, all ye faithful. Come, all ye faithful.
Let there be Song! Let there be song! Let there be song!**

NARRATION: FAITH

Margaret Howsen

THE ADVENT ROSE

Amanda Chandler, Soloist

*Like a rose blooming in the winter, like a candle burning bright.
Like a star shining in the shadows, like a love song in the night.
Hope comes softly. Hope comes gently like a promise over all.
Falling graceful as a snowflake from the loving heart of God.*

*Like a lark singing to the silence, like a fragrance in the air.
Like a wind moving through the forest. Like the whisper of a prayer,
Peace comes softly. Peace comes gently, bringing mercy,*

*Bringing grace; heaven's blanket of assurance,
Warming touch of loves's embrace.*

*Let the valleys ring with music. Let the desert bloom and thrive;
For a Rose opens in the moonlight, bringing hope and joy and life;
Bringing love to heal the nations, bringing comfort to the soul,
Bringing truth to light the darkness, bringing grace to make us whole.*

*Like a rose blooming in the winter, bringing grace to make us whole.
Grace to make us whole.*

NARRATION: HOPE

Jo Neal

THE DIVINE EXPECTATION

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us. Let us find our rest in Thee.
Come. Come. Come, Lord Jesus, Come today. Come. Veni Emmanuel!*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth, Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart. Come, come,
Come, Lord Jesus, Come today. Come, Veni Emmanuel!*

*Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child, and yet a King.
Let us all Thy grace receive. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom suddenly return,
And never, nevermore Thy temples leave.*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone.
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.
Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling. All Thy faithful mercies crown.*

*Come to us, O Child of wonder. Come and sing redemption's song.
Come, O come, and break our bonds asunder,
Come and bring a glorious dawn.
Come. Come. Come, Lord Jesus. Come today.
Come, Veni Emmanuel!
Come Emmanuel! Alleluia! Come, Emmanuel! Alleluia!
Come, Emmanuel!*

NARRATION: PEACE

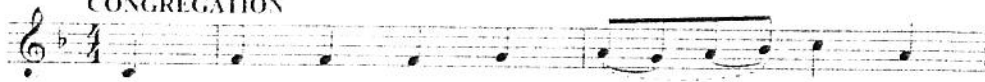
Lawrence Fikes

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Words:
PHILLIPS BROOKS (1835-1893)

Time: FOREST GREEN
Traditional English Melody
Arranged by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

CONGREGATION



(Cong.) 1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how
(Cong.) 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and
(Choir.) 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the
(Cong.) 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de -



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and
gath - ered all a - bove, while mor - tals sleep, the
won - drous Gift is giv'n, So God im - parts to
scend on us we pray, Cast out our sin: and



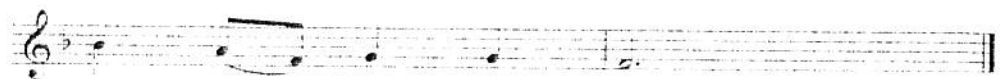
dream - less sleep, the si - lent stars go by, Yet
an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love, O
hu - man hearts the bless - ings of His heav'n, No
en - ter in: be born in us to - day, We



in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing
morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly
ear may hear His com - ing, but in this world of
hear the Christ - mas an - gels, the great glad ti - dings



Light, The hopes and fears of all the years are
birth, and and prais - es sing to God the King, and
sin, where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still the
tell, O come to us, a - bide with us, our



met in thee to - night
peace to all the earth
dear Christ en - ters in
Lord, Em - man - u - el

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Choir only: Our Lord, Emmanuel.

Narration: LOVE

Kitty Rubenstein

CAROLS FROM A QUIET MANGER

Rebecca Deadman, soloist

*Still, still, still, come see the Child so still.
As Mary gently rocks her Baby, angels softly sing His praises.
Still, still, still, come see the Child so still.*

*Still, still, still, hear the falling snow? For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping, holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still, can you hear the falling snow?*

*Fairest Lord Jesus, born in a manger, God with us, Emmanuel.
Hope of the nations, Joy of creation, You are my glory and my King.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep. Close Your eyes my love and dream.
No crying as I gently hold You. Let my tender arms enfold You.
Sleep, sleep, sleep. Close Your eyes, my Love and dream.*

Close Your eyes, my Love, and sleep. Sleep, sleep, sleep.

Narration: JOY

Karen Perdue

ARISE!

*Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from the night.
Come and see the Savior's everlasting light.
The Child who in a manger lay, has wakened the dawn to a glorious day!
Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est.*

*Arise, ye sleepers. Awake from your rest.
Come and see the Child who evermore will bless.
Through Him, the battle of sin will be won.
Awake from the darkness. Your Light now has come!
Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est.*

*Arise, sleepers; awake. This is the day the Christ is born.
Arise, sleepers; awake.
Lift high your praise this glorious morn. Arise, ye sleepers.
Awake from the night.
Come and see the Savior's everlasting light.
The Child who in a manger lay has wakened the dawn to a glorious day!
Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est.
Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Christus natus est.
Hodie. Hodie. Hodie!*

Narration: WONDER

Tina Smith

BLEAK MIDWINTER'S GIFT

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow;
In the bleak mid winter, long ago.*

*Heaven cannot hold Him; nor earth sustain.
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate; Jesus Christ.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a Shepherd,
I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can, I give Him; give my heart.
I give my heart; give my heart. My heart.*

Narration: GRACE

Dana Neal

LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS

Barbara Rhinehart, soloist

*Let there be music. Let there be praise.
Let there be singing to fill every space.
Let there be starshine, dazzling and white.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.*

*Let there be carols, Let there be song.
Let there be angels to sing loud and strong.
Let there be candles, gentle and bright.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.*

*Christmas, come now, and fill us with love.
Bring your spirit of grace from above.
Christmas, come let our hope be restored.
Bring us news that a Savior is born!
Christ, Savior is born!*

*Let there be glory. Let there be peace.
Let there be promise. Let justice increase.
Heaven has spoken, "Let there be Light!"
Come, all ye faithful. Let there be Christmas tonight.*

*Let there be music. Let there be singing.
Let there be worship. Let there be Christmas tonight.
Come to the manger, Kneel and adore Him.
O let there be Christmas tonight.
Silent night.*

Narration: LIFE

Don Harris, Jr.

A JOYFUL GATHERING OF CAROLS

PLEASE SING ALONG

JOY TO THE WORLD

Words:
ISAAC WATTS (1674-1748)

Tune: ANTIOCH
GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL (1685-1759)

Arranged by
LOWELL MASON (1792-1872)

CONGREGATION

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come, Let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns, Let all their songs em -

King. Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room; and
play: while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re -

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, and
and heav'n and na - ture sing,
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
and heav'n and na - ture sing,
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing

heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
sing,
joy,

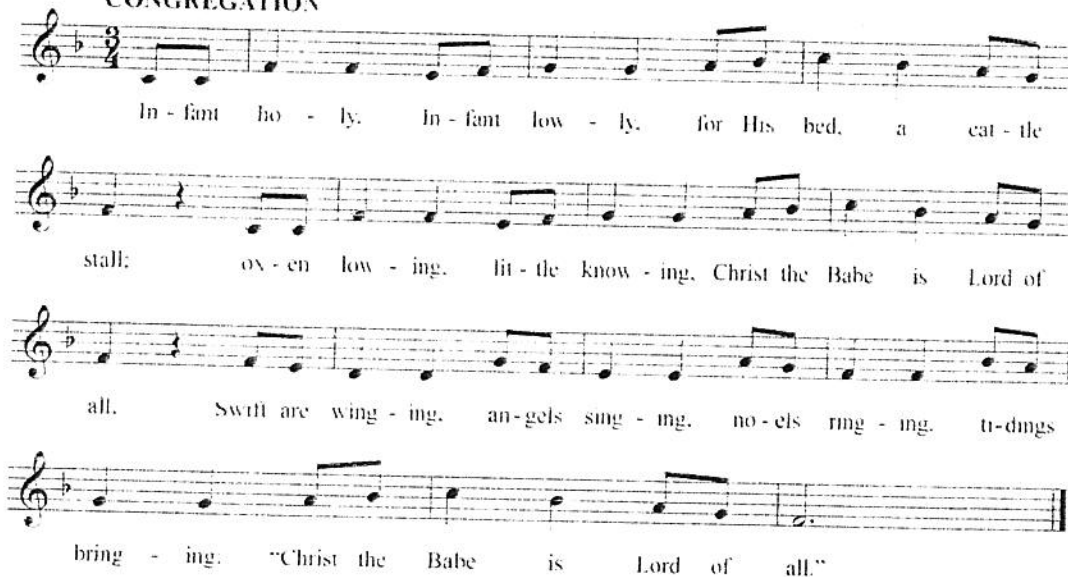
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INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

Words:
Traditional Polish Carol

Tune:
W ZLOBIE LEZY
Traditional Polish Melody
Arranged by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

CONGREGATION



In - fant ho - ly. In - fant low - ly. for His bed, a eat - the
stall: ox - en low - ing. lit - tle know - ing, Christ the Babe is Lord of
all. Swift are wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, ti - dings
bring - ing. "Christ the Babe is Lord of all."

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SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

Words:
JOSEPH MOHR (1792-1848)

Tune: STILLE NACHT
FRANZ GRÜBER (1787-1862)

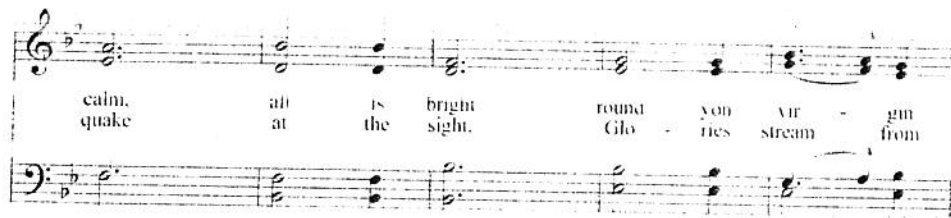
Arranged by
JOSEPH AL MARTIN (BMI)

CONGREGATION



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds

2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds



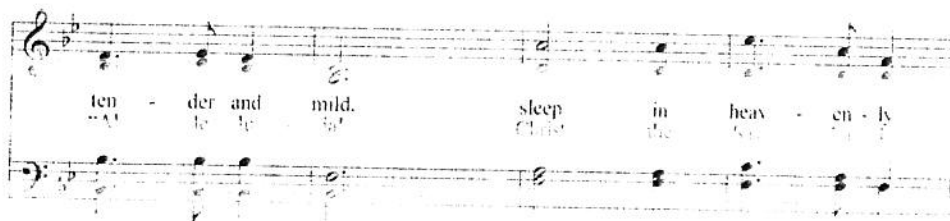
calm, at the bright sight, round you are stream - ing from

quake at the bright sight, round you are stream - ing from



moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant, so sing,

heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts



ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly

ly mild, sleep in heav - en - ly



born! Christ the Sav - ior is born

born! Christ the Sav - ior is born

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THE FIRST NOEL

Words:
Traditional English Carol

Tune: THE FIRST NOEL
Traditional English Melody
Arranged by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

CONGREGATION

The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to

cer - tain poor shep-herds in fields where they lay, in fields where

they lay keep-ing their sheen, on a cold win-ter's night that

was so deep No - el, No - el, No - el, No -

el, born is the King of Is - ra - el

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HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Words:
CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

Tune: MENDELSSOHN
by FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)
Arranged by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN (BMI)

CONGREGATION

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies,

With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

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Let there be singing! Let there be Christmas

(We use the wording “debts and debtors.”)

Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.

Lay Reader: Lawrence Fikes

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2 - 5

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39 - 56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Choir

Soprano

Ann Tucker Woolley
Robin Wagner
Barbara E. Rhinehart
Laura Pierce
Rebecca Dedman
Amanda Chandler
Rose VonTungeln

Tenor

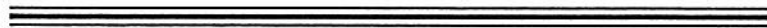
Frank Merritt
Logan Mosley
Weston Mosley
Don Neal
Debby Ahlgrim
Millicent Gracebottom

Alto

Joan Ahlgrim
Betty Coles
Laura Cosner
Denise Mosley
Suzy VonTungeln

Bass

Benjimen Neal
Rick Pierce
Pete Ahlgrim



CHORAL PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

CENTRAL PRAYER CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2015

MEMBERS:

Lynda Vick
Emil Brown
Valerie Reichen
Bernice and Gene Lackey
Mary Wooten

Donna McCaleb
Mildred Gaunt
Hester Insley
Mary Kientz
Bea Magee

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

The family of Cissy Bailey, sister-in-law of Betty Coles
The family of Cherish Albright, acquaintance of Brianna Vick
Judy Buchanan, wife of Nelson Buchanan
Audrey Brooks, mother-in-law of Nelson Buchanan
The family of Skylar Pickle, friend of Brianna Rodriguez
Steven Lee, uncle of Amber Poss
Mary Ward, mother of Dana Neal
Cathy Risinger, sister of Kay Cromwell
Betty Seymore, aunt of Pat Drewett
Scott Howell, son of friend of Jemmie Moseley and Lynda Vick
Scott McGeorge, friend of Laurence Fikes
Jay Johnson, friend of Amanda Chandler
Jerry Conley, friend of the Shell family
Dorothy Soto, friend of Lynda Vick
Kevin Rushing, friend of Laura Pierce
Doris McCoy, mother of Kay Cromwell
Randy Shell, brother of Marty Shell
Lois Tucker, neighborhood friend of the Mosley family
Georgiana Burnside, daughter of Amanda Chandler's co-worker

Jennifer Place, friend of Laura & Zac Cosner
Rhett Lunningham, nephew of David Judkins
Pam Panks, mother of Bubba VonTungeln's friend
Rev. Jim Miller, friend of the church
Perry Reynolds, friend of the Jane & David Judkins
Lori Partridge, friend of Rose VonTungeln
Annette Knuckles, co-worker of Tommy Dunlap
Joshua Chambliss and family, nephew of Rose and Suzy VonTungeln
Juliet Walker, sister of Bubba VonTungeln's co-worker
Ryker Cheek, nephew of Bubba VonTungeln
Mary McBee, friend of Karen & David Perdue
Wanda Vining, mother-in-law of Pat Drewett
Helen Gaunt, sister-in-law of Mildred Gaunt
Joe Ward, uncle of Dana Neal
Dan Loomis, former pastor
John Hensley, friend of Laura and Rick Pierce
Franklin Ward, uncle of Dana Neal

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:

Memorial Church, Atkins

First, Walnut Ridge

OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Help us keep our Prayer list up-to-date. If you have family or friends who need to be added or removed from the Prayer Concerns list, please let Erin know.

Christmas Poinsettias Placed in the Sanctuary

Tommy Dunlap & Marty Shell

*In memory of Margie Watson, Nell & Bob
Dunlap, Georgia Diffey, Randi Shell, and
Lester & Marie Shell*

Karen & David Perdue

*In memory of Ruby O. Carey and Jane
Margrave*

Lynda, Brady, Adam, Brianna,
Kodee, Jacob, Weston & Mary

*In memory of Earl W. Vick, Jr. and Nell
Horne*

Jemmie D. Moseley & Family

*In memory of Martin Moseley, Sr., Mr. &
Mrs. B. Bryan Moseley, and Mr. & Mrs.
Bonner G. Davis, Sr.*

Zac, Laura, & Langston Cosner

*In memory of Danleigh Joyce Cosner, Dora
VonTungeln, Barbara Simpson, and Nell
Horne*

Judy and Nelson Buchanan

*In honor of Bea. Magee and Audrey Brooks
In memory of Mike Brooks, Grady Magee,
and Linda & Scotty Douthit*

Mary Shannon & Lawrence Fikes

For the Glory of God

Melissa & Rick Tucker

In honor of Karen & David Perdue

Patsy Glover

In memory of Alvin Glover

Gary Johnson

In honor of Cynthia, Matt, & Anna Johnson

Valerie Reichen and

In memory of Murray Reichen

Donna & Marlin Shipman

In memory of Loved Ones

Patsy & Dave King

*In honor of Dr. Lois J. Faucette and the
Family & Friends of Central Presbyterian
Church*

Erin Shaw & Ryan

Central Presbyterian Announcements:

The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Will Be Held today following our Christmas Cantata. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.

The Session Will Meet this afternoon, in the conference room, following the Fellowship Luncheon.

Dana Neal's Sunday School Class Is Taking on an Important Christmas Service Project and they need our help. We will provide basic hygiene and grooming items for residents of the Salvation Army Shelter. We'll assemble packages that include basic items like shaving cream, razors, aftershave, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, and any other personal care items you think of. Mouthwash is needed, but it must be a kind that doesn't contain alcohol.

We also will provide gifts that children can give to their mom who are with them at the CASA shelter. Again, think about basic items – nail polish, nail files, lipstick, blush, moisturizer, combs, brushes, that sort of gift. No shampoo, please – CASA already has a great supply.

We will distribute the gifts on **Tuesday, December 22, from 6-8 p.m.** There are boxes on the round table in McElyea Hall for your gifts and, of course, we're happy to receive checks. If you have questions, Dana, Amanda, and Dave, are eager to try to answer them. Thanks, everyone.

The Deadline for the January Issue of *Central Scene* is tomorrow. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.

The Thursday Noon Bible Study Group Will Not Meet this Thursday, December 24.

Our Annual Christmas Eve Service Will Be Held Thursday, December 24, at **5:30 p.m.** Come and sing with us as we celebrate together!

The Church Office Will Be Closed Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas Day.

First Presbyterian Announcements:

Blue Christmas Worship

Blue Christmas worship service – TODAY – 4:00 p.m. – Chapel of

First Presbyterian Church: The Advent/Christmas season is one of wonder. For so many it is a time of hopeful anticipation. It is a season of promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for the lights and the tinsel. The decorations are everywhere we turn. But for many of us, Christmas is a harsh reminder of life that once was. A Blue Christmas worship service provides the opportunity for us to gather to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to honor the emotions of the season that are not so joyful, and to be reminded that we are not alone in this season. We welcome you all to come and worship God with us in this special worship service. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve Service of Music & Worship will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

End of Year Pledges

Please return your Pledge cards in to the church office as soon as possible.

Magi Market

Magi Market is still open come by the church during normal business hours or during fellowship lunch after worship on Sunday December 27, 2015.

Church Office Closings

The church office will be closed December 24-25 and December 31-January 1, 2015

New Hymnal Dedications

It is our hope that all hymnals will be donated by our members in memory or honor of loved ones.??The cost for each hymnal is \$25.00. To order a hymnal, please fill out a form located in the FPC office along with your check, payable to the church, and mark "New Hymnal" on the memo line. Your Worship & Arts Ministry Team will place a bookplate inside with your dedication.

The Legend of the Candy Cane

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy at Christmas time that would serve as a witness to his Christian faith.

He wanted to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; hard to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church; firmness to represent the promise of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. He thought it could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which he reached down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received, by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life. Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time.

But the true meaning is still there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

