



Bethany United Methodist Church

1860 Hayes Road – P.O. Box 527

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Church Web site: www.bethanygloucesterpoint.net

Worship service: 8:30

December 14, 2008

Third Sunday of Advent

LARGE PRINT Hymnals and Bulletins are available for your use – request one from an usher
Listening devices are available from the ushers for the hearing impaired.

Gathering

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to use this time to welcome and visit with others in the congregation.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Let the chiming of the hour be a call to silent prayer and meditation.

PRELUDE

Noél No. 10 – Full Organ and Duos Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

“When God was born at Christmas

In the land of Judaea,

That solemn day was bathed in joy.

There was no man, great or small,

Who did not bring his present

And did not offer ceaselessly

All his wealth and riches.”

- Provencal carol

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

8:30

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sung)

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

UMH, No. 211

*CALL TO WORSHIP

He was revealed in the flesh,

vindicated by the Spirit,

seen by angels,

proclaimed among the nations,

believed in throughout the world,

taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel!

I Timothy 3:16

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

TFWS, No. 2100

*OPENING PRAYER

Book of Worship

God of the ages, we praise you, for in the dawn of time you created the world, sending light by your Word to dispel darkness. In Jesus Christ you began a new creation, sending him to be the Light of the world, to drive away fear and despair, and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love. Help us to share the ministry of Christ and be agents of his compassion. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH, No. 881

*THE GLORIA PATRI

UMH, No. 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end! Amen. Amen.

ANTHEM 8:30

One Small Child

David Meece

Proclamation of the Word

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scripture is read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible, OT, page 842

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:6-8;19-27

Pew Bible, NT, page 87

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WITNESS TO THE WORD

A Case of Mistaken Identity

Rev. Steve Young

Response to the Word

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

What Child Is This?

UMH, No. 219

During the singing of this hymn, you are welcome to come forward and kneel at the Communion rail to pray, to make a new commitment to Christ, or to otherwise respond to God's Word.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH, no. 895

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Sherease Thomas

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory

Behold, a Rose is Blooming, from "Eleven Chorale Preludes"

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

"Behold, a rose is blooming

From out a tender root:

Thus in the house of Jesse,

As tell our ancient hymns,

A young and tender shoot

Amid the gloom of winter

Burst forth in wondrous bloom!"

-German carol (15th century)

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH, No. 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH, No. 240

*BENEDICTION

*DISMISSAL CHORUS

UMH, No. 219

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing!

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus, from "Messiah" George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Arr. Virgil Fox

"Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth,
Hallelujah!

The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom
of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign
for ever and ever, Hallelujah!

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and he shall
reign for ever and ever, Hallelujah!"

-Revelation XIX: 6, XI: 15, XIX: 16

**Congregation to Stand*

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are delighted to have you in our congregation today. We invite you to participate as fully in our worship service as you feel comfortable. Bethany Church offers a full range of study and fellowship opportunities for children, youth, young adults, and older adults. Sunday School, in session from 9:45-10:45 a.m. each Sunday morning, features nine different classes for adults, one class for youth, three classes for children, and a nursery. We invite you to come back to Bethany and get to know us better!

Our Nursery

For the convenience of parents of small children a nursery is provided during both worship services and also during the Sunday School hour. The maximum suggested age for the nursery is four years old. Please ask an usher or greeter for directions to the nursery.

Our Flowers Today

Flowers on the altar today are given in loving memory of our father and grandfather, Dr. Franklin H. Famer, by Frank and Scott Farmer, and Clare, Chris, Aislee, Alyssa and Tyler Hall.

Bishop:		Reverend Charlene Payne Kammerer
District Superintendent:		Reverend Joseph D. Carson
Minister:		Reverend Stephen E. Young
Pastor in Residence:		Chaplain L. Lawson Byrd
Pastor in Residence:		Reverend Bob Justis
Pastor in Residence:		Chaplain Carol Johnson
Lay Leader:		Archie Leigh
Associate Lay Leader:		Roy Bauschatz
Youth Leader:		Sondra Colbert
Children's Ministry:		Kris Kent
Director of Music:		Sandra Fox
Organist:		Rudy Shackelford
Soloist:	8:30	Janet Chapin
Lay Readers:	8:30	Peggy Lewis
Acolytes:	8:30	Emily Coleman 11:00 Kaiten Cooper
Altar Guild for December:		Charlotte Cecil and Diana Simmons
Greeters:	11:00	Narthex: Mike Andersen Side: Patrick Kiley

This Week at Bethany

Today	8:25 & 10:55	Prayer time - Mary Lotsey Classroom
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages
	12:15	Called Administrative Board meeting

	12:15	Youth Choir Rehearsal
	5:00-6:00	Middle School/High School Bible Study
	6:00-8:00	Bible Buddies
	6:00-8:00	Supper/MYF
Monday	5:00	Weight Watchers
	7:00	Men's/Women's Bible Study
Tuesday	10:30	Sanders Nursing Home
	7:00	Evangelism Committee meeting
Wednesday	6:30	Prayer Focus: "Struggling Families at Christmas"
	7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9:00	The Main Event
	6:00	Scouts meet in Educational Classroom
	6:30	Emmaus
	7:30	Mid week Worship
Friday	6:00-8:30	Scouts meet in WBFH
	7:00-9:00	Youth Play Rehearsal
Saturday	10:00-12:30	Children's program dress rehearsal
	6:30-10:00	Youth Christmas Party
Next Sunday	9:00	Breakfast in the WBFH
	10:00	Children's Program "A Christmas Carol –Scrooge in Bethlehem" "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party after program

Stewardship for December 7, 2008

Attendance:

Worship:		237
8:30	61	
11:00	176	
Sunday School		92
Adults	67	
Youth	12	
Children	13	
Nursery: 8:30	0	
11:00	3	
Children's Church		19

Counting Teams Schedule

December 14 Jean Heywood, Carlton Heywood, Norman Poland
 December 21 Jackie Hampton, Charlotte Cecil, Jane Niethamer

As of last Sunday our budget was \$6,879 in arrears. Your generous offerings in December will make it possible for Bethany to meet its financial obligations. Thank you!



December 14 - 11:00 a.m. Choir Cantata

The Chancel Choir, under the direction of Sandra Fox, will present their annual Christmas cantata during the 11 o'clock worship service today. This year's cantata is entitled *The Winter Rose* by Joseph Martin.

December 20 – 6:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

The Bethany UMYF will hold their Christmas party from 6:30-10:00 p.m.

December 21 – Children's Christmas Program

At 9 a.m., breakfast will be served by our United Methodist Men in the WBFH

At 10 a.m. our children will present their Christmas program entitled "A Christmas Carol — *Scrooge in Bethlehem*" arranged by Anna L. Page and Jean A. Shafferman, (only one service today!)

At 11 AM. The children will participate in a Living Nativity tableau in front of the church, followed by a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party in the WBFH

December 24 – 7:30 and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services

At 7:30 p.m. there will be a family Christmas Eve service with the participation of the children and the lighting of the congregation's candles. The children will sing "*Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, Jingle Bells, and Silent Night*. A nursery will be offered.

At 11:00 p.m. there will be a formal service of Lesson and Carols, culminating in Holy Communion.

December 31 – 11:30 p.m. Watch Night Service**Christmas Card Mailbox**

Bethany's mailbox for you to put your Christmas cards to Bethany families is now located in the WBFH. What a great way to remember friends, and no postage required. Just remember to check the slot with the initial of your last name on it for incoming mail.

HELP THE CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA

We will be accepting contributions through December 21, 2008. You can make a gift donation in honor or memory of someone or just a donation. You can learn more about this Global Mission opportunity by visiting our display table on November 30, 2008, December 7, 14 & 21 at the completion of both church services or see Mike Andersen.

Just pick up a gift card from the North Annex. Please fill out the gift card and make your checks payable to BUMC and put Cambodian Children in the memo line.

Clara Biswas, our missionary in Cambodia, works with other UMC missionaries to rescue impoverished children and youth by transforming hopelessness into hope. They do this through programs that combat hunger, illness, and illiteracy, while providing Christian education, vocational training, and improved sanitation

Our contributions can greatly enhance the opportunities for these young people to survive, find hope, and become productive citizens in their country as well as evangelists for Christ.

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Help is desperately needed to support the following ongoing programs:

From: _____

A gift of _____ has been made to the following program/programs.

A gift of _____ has been made to the following program/programs

in honor of:_____.

A gift of _____ has been made to the following program/programs

in memory of:_____.

Help is desperately needed to support the following ongoing programs:

PROGRAM:	AMOUNT:
Share of Rice	\$ 25.00 _____
1 Ton of Rice	\$250.00 _____
Sunday School materials	\$ 5.00 _____
Water filters to combat waterborne diseases	\$ 5.00 _____
Share of Vegetable Garden plot	\$ 25.00 _____
Share of a Cow	\$ 25.00 _____
Schooling for Orphan for 1 year	\$100.00 _____
Schooling for Orphan for 1 month	\$ 10.00 _____
Engine Repair scholarship	\$100.00 _____
Share of engine repair scholarship	\$ 25.00 _____
Weaving and sewing scholarship	\$350.00 _____
Share of weaving/sewing scholarship	\$ 25.00 _____

2009 Offering Envelopes are Now Available

Envelopes for 2009 may be picked up in the narthex. Please make certain that you pick up the box with your name on it. If you were not assigned numbered envelopes for 2009, you may request them by contacting the Financial Secretary (Bernard Robins - 642-6412). Non-members who regularly attend Bethany may also request numbered envelopes.

Please do not use '08 envelopes after Sunday, December 28, 2008, and do not use '09 envelopes before Sunday, January 4, 2009.

Donations are recorded by the Financial Secretary according to the date of the Sunday received; therefore, donations must be received no later than Sunday, December 28, 2008, in order to be credited for 2008.

Using your numbered envelopes is a great way to help the counting committees and the Financial Secretary. Thank you!

Stewardship Moment

Giving the Stewardship Moment this morning is Ms. Sherease Thomas, a representative of U.M. Family Services. Each year in December Bethany receives a special offering to support their work.

Stamps for Mission

Bethany United Methodist Women still collect cancelled stamps. These need to be trimmed off the envelope with a space of approximately 1/4" around the stamp - we will trim them for you if you prefer. Please save and turn in to church office or put in UMW mailbox slot located outside the Church office.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are available to order and place in the sanctuary for Christmas services, the cost is \$12.00 for each six-inch plant. This is a fundraiser for the MYF. Order deadline is **MONDAY**, December 15, 2008.

Payment **MUST** accompany order. Make checks payable to Bethany UMC with notation for poinsettias.

"IN MEMORY OF _____"

"IN HONOR OF _____"

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

AMOUNT ATTACHED \$_____



CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men will be serving breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on December 21 in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall prior to our 10 a. m. service. All are invited to come, but you **must** make a reservation first. Please indicate below the number from your family that will be attending and put in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.

_____Number attending.