

# Bethany United Methodist Church

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Church Web site: [www.bethanygloucesterpoint.net](http://www.bethanygloucesterpoint.net)

Worship service 11:00 a.m.

December 18, 2011

The Fourth 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.*

### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNITY JOYS, AND CONCERNS

### PRELUDE

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

Calkin

### \*OPENING CHORUS

UMH, No.221

**In the bleak mid-winter, 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.**

### LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE *Jonathan, Kris, Austin and Connor Kent*

Three candles, burning bright, chasing away the darkness with light,

Sending a glimmer of hope to those in despair, letting them know we remember and care. Giving a ray of possibility to those who've lost their way, with this candle of joy, we signal trust in God's new day .

Today, we light this candle in honor of our children.

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH, No. 234

### \*OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, the time of waiting is almost over. Like new parents eagerly awaiting the birth of a child, we impatiently wait with you for the birth of your Son. We stand in awe knowing what the birth of this particular baby means for our lives yet unable to**

**fully comprehend the depth of your love for us. We come before you in worship this morning, hoping that our thoughts, prayers and songs of praise are pleasing to you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Proclamation of the Word

### PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION

**Father as we come to worship you today and hear your message through the children we ask for your blessing. Help us to understand this season of celebration is about you and your salvation. Thank you for the many hours of commitment your people**

**have made for this wonderful presentation. Come Lord Jesus be born in us this day.  
Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM                      *Barrett Decatur Hogge*  
Special Music:                      *Let There be Peace on Earth*                      sung by Adam White

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION                      *Away In a Manger*                      UMH, No. 217

\*GOSPEL LESSON                      Luke 1:26-38                      Pew Bible NT, page 53  
This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## *Response to the Word*

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS  
OFFERTORY ANTHEM                      *Silent Night*

\*DOXOLOGY                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      UMH, No. 95

\*DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

THE CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION

## **CHRIST-MYTH BUSTERS**

By Dennis and Nan Allen

Directed by Sandy Fox, and Kris Kent

*Christmastime with Joy to the World* (Soloist, Jelani Suarez)

Scene 1

Myth Scene 1

*We Three Kings*

Scene 2

Myth Scene 2

*Imagine* (Soloists, Ellanah Daniel, Alexandria Bontrager)

Scene 3

*Where Did Christmas Go?* with *O Come, Let Us Adore Him* (Soloist, Katie Shackelford)

Scene 4

*Angel Rap/Myth Scene 3* (Soloists, Jordan Roane, Alec Daniel, Carter Roane)

Scene 5

*What Kind of Child?* with *What Child Is This?*

Scene 6

*Abba* (Soloist, Kayla McDade)

Scene 7

*God Has Come* (Soloist, Kate Neikirk)

*Christmastime (Reprise)* (Soloist, Jelani Suarez)

### Cast

Katie Shackelford – Mrs. Edwards	Alexandria Bontrager – Lily
Kate Neikirk – Abby	Kayla McDade – Ella, Angel Rapper
Connor Kent – Michael	Jordan Roane – Wise Man, Angel Rapper
Carter Roane – Wise Man, Angel Rapper	Alec Daniel – Wise Man, Angel Rapper
Ellanah Daniel – Wise Woman, Angel Rapper	Austin Kent – Shepherd, Prop Assistant
Audrey Phillips – Shepherd, Angel Rapper, Prop Assistant	
Matthew Suarez – Shepherd	Samantha Jacobs – Shepherd
Shelby Jacobs – Shepherd	Jelani Suarez – choir
Kassie Shackelford – choir	Alyssa Hall – choir
Cooper White – choir	Stella Layne White – choir

### Directors and Assistants

Kris Kent – Children’s Director  
Gloria Atwell – Music Asst.  
Ann Lemay – Set  
Denise Campbell – Prompter

Sandy Fox – Music Director  
Loreen Paiva – Costumes  
Merle Luther – Sound

\*CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

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\*Please stand as you are able

Here we are again, doing another version of the “Christmas Story” and boy have they been excited about this play. The children loved learning about these “Christmas myths” and laughed while doing it. (I will never look at a toilet bowl brush without remembering this musical). They learned how important it is to help others and that it’s okay to be special and different just like Jesus. Our Bethany children have definitely made this an exciting journey. I have seen them learn and grow with enthusiasm, determination, persistence and laughter.

To Pastor Art, parents, children, youth, staff, and congregation: Thank You! Thank You! Without your support, these programs would not exist. To Kris Kent: Thanks for doing the emailing and all the extra, extra, extra stuff. What a blessing you all are!

**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, two classes 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.

### **Notes from the Nursery**

Helpers are needed for the nursery. Can you volunteer a Sunday if needed? Many times your nursery attendants may get sick or need a personal day off. If you can help on a given Sunday get in touch with Teresa Sullivan (804-832-4381) or Clare Hall (757-813-1567).

Parents and guests, the nursery workers would like to request that your child not bring personal toys/items to the nursery. They can easily get misplaced with nursery items. Your help with this will be most appreciated.

### **Note of Thanks**

I extend my gratitude to my Bethany Church family for your expressions of condolence and especially your prayers for me and my family over the last several years and since the passing of my father. My thanks to each of you for your love and concern. May God abundantly bless you. Ellen Leigh and family

### **To all Members and non-members of Bethany UMC**

Offering envelopes may be picked up in the narthex. The box will have your name on it, please do not use 2011 envelopes after Sunday, December 25, 2011, and do not use 2012 envelopes before Sunday, January 1, 2012. 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 25, 2011, in order to be credited for 2011.

Any person who was not assigned numbered envelopes for 2012, but would like to contribute to the church and receive a statement of giving, can also request envelopes. You may call the church office (642-2110) to let Frances know or you can leave me a note in my box. Please keep in mind that the use of envelopes enables the Financial Secretary/Accountant and

counters to record any and all contributions that are given to Bethany. Anyone who gives to Bethany can have their donations credited for tax purposes. Your Giving is very important to the Lord and to Bethany UMC.

- Nancy Harris, Financial Secretary/Accountant.



## Christmas Evening Services and Christmas Day

On December 24, we will worship our Lord at 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. with Communion

On Christmas morning, December 25, we shall gather for one service at 11:00 a.m. This will allow your families to worship together either on Christmas Eve and/or on Christmas morning - No Sunday School.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

On January 1, 2012 we will have an informal service of sharing. There will be one service at 11 am. We will gather in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. Be thinking about some talent you have and consider sharing it with the congregation. No Sunday School

## Send Christmas greeting to your Bethany Friends

Bethany's mailbox has been placed in the Warren Belvin Fellowship Hall. What a neat way to send Christmas greetings to your Bethany friends - and it's free! Just remember to check the slot with the initial of your last name each week.

Bishop:	Reverend Charlene Payne Kammerer
District Superintendent:	Reverend Joseph D. Carson
Minister:	Reverend Arthur L. Wolz, Jr.
Pastor in Residence:	Chaplain Carol Johnson
Lay Leader:	Archie Leigh
Associate Lay Leader:	Roy Bauschatz
Associate Lay Leader:	Judy Burner
Youth Leader:	Sondra Colbert
Assistant Youth Leader:	Dawn Cluts
Children's Ministry:	Kris Kent
Director of Music:	Sandra Fox
Organist:	Rudy Shackelford
Guest Organist:	Jean Heywood
Liturgist:	11:00 Sue Morecock
Acolytes:	11:00 Kayla McDade
Altar Guild for December:	Pat Hasty and Peggy Burton

## This Week at Bethany

Today	10:55	Prayer time - Mary Lotsey Classroom
Monday	7:00	Men's/Women's Bible Study
Tuesday	10:30	Sanders Nursing Home
Wednesday	7:00	Chancel Choir
Thursday	9:00	Main Event - Prayer time in the sanctuary

Saturday	7:00	Christmas Eve Service
	11:00	Christmas Eve Service
Next Sunday	11:00	Worship Service – No Sunday School today

Attendance:

Worship	
10:00	245
Nursery: 10:00	6
	8
Children' Church	8

**Counting Teams Schedule**

December 18 Bernard Robins, Vicki Williams, Sandra Harvey

December 25 Al Burner, Judy Burner, Donna Andersen

*Poinsettias have been placed in the sanctuary as follows...*

In memory of our parents by Robert and Yeardeley Blackwell

In memory of J. Douglas Hall by Jason and Susannah, Baum and Decatur Hogge

In memory of Elizabeth H. Hall by Jason and Susannah, Baum & Decatur Hogge

In memory of Tom and Edith Emory by Don Sandridge

In memory of Robert Cluts by Dawn L Cluts

In memory of my parents Felton and Kathryn Forrest by Martha Anne Forrest

In memory of Larry A. Johnson, Jr. by Martha Anne Forrest

In memory of her parents Christine and Herman Harris by Nan and Bobby Leigh

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Shackelford, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Shackelford, and

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Shackelford by Joan and Tony

In memory of William and Grace Lee Rowe by VC and Melissa Sutton and family

In memory of our parents by Fred and Jane Niethamer

In memory of Rev. Lawson Byrd by Ann Byrd

In memory of Minnie and Lex Byrd (Lawson Byrd's parents) by Ann Byrd

In memory of her parents, W. K. Adams and Gladys Davis, by Ann Byrd

In memory of my parents William F. and Ida May Cameron by Judy C. Vaughan

In memory of William F. Cameron, Jr. & George F. Cameron by Judy C Vaughan

In memory of Barbara and Jessica Downey by Judy C. Vaughan

In memory of Reinaldo by Pasty Morales

In memory of James Robert Williams by Agnes, Andrea and Alicia

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Williams Irving Lewis by Agnes, Andrea, and Alicia

Poinsettia given by Sue Morecock

In memory of Ellen Purcell, mother of Charla Barnard, by Bethany Chancel Choir

In memory of David and Ella Grey Burke by Roger and Nancy Heflin

In memory of Carlyle Brown by Frances Brown

In memory of our families by Betty and Jim Durette

In memory of Austin N. Kent "Pop" by the Kent family

In memory of Dr. William J. Hargis, Jr. by Emily Irvin and Susan King

In memory of Larry Johnson, Jr. by his parents Larry and Judy Johnson

In memory of Larry Johnson, Jr. by his sister and family Sharon, Mike, Afton

and Nataleigh Thayer



In memory of her grandmother, Ellen Purcell, by Jill, David, Alec and Ellanah Daniel

In memory of Billy and Diane Daniel by Jill, David, Alec and Ellanah Daniel

In memory of John and Myrtle T. Lewis by Carolyn, Marshall, Bonnie, Melissa  
and families

In memory of R. Leslie and Evelyn M. Lewis by Carolyn, Marshall, Bonnie, Melissa  
and families

In memory of Donald G. Broadwell by Carolyn, Graham, Suzanne, Frances  
and families

### **Poinsettias are given in honor of . . . .**

In honor of Mary Kaylor by Don Sandridge

In honor of Jean Heywood by Don Sandridge

In honor of Debbie and Bernard Robins 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Lorraine  
and Eugene Brown

In honor of Bethany Youth by Dawn L. Cluts

In honor of our grandsons Hunter Leigh Martin and Christian Reece Martin by  
Nan and Bobby Leigh

In honor of Luella Bierman by Jerry Bierman

In honor of Bethany's Hospitality Committee: Judy Burner, Yeardeley Blackwell, Dawn Cluts, Nancy Cooper,  
Betty Durette, Pete Dunston, Jean Heywood,

Sarah Hillard, Nancy Kendall, Sylvia Ransone by Judy and Milt Hudgins

In honor of Larry and Judy Johnson by Kristee Georgiou and Eleni

In honor of Alice, Ray, and Jerri Doggett by Rudy Shackelford

In honor of Charla and Tom Barnard by Jill, David, Alec and Ellanah Daniel

### **Stop Hunger Now**

In honor of our children by Fred and Jane Niethamer

In honor of their daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Christophe Orth-Vellion  
by "JJ" and Nancy Orth

In honor of their daughter and son-in-law and grandsons, Jonathan and Leanna West,  
and Gavin and Isaac by "JJ" and Nancy Orth

In honor of my wonderful, loving, husband and family and to the Glory of God  
by Donna Lane

In memory of our parents Harry and Lois Ferguson, and Robert and Clara James  
by Bob and Barbara James

In memory of Gene A. Leigh by Ellen Leigh and Rebecca Teagle and family

In memory of Pastor Lyle Kohler by Don and Carol Schultz

Donation given by Sue Morecock

In memory of William and Zela Jordan by their daughter and son-in-law Katherine  
and Harold Fenstermacher

In memory of Edward and Bessie Fenstermacher by their son and daughter-in-law  
Harold and Katherine Fenstermacher

In memory of Robert and Lucille Tillage by Billy, Ann, Brit and Merdith Hogge

In memory of William and Sue Hogge by Billy, Ann, Brit and Merdith Hogge

In memory of her parents, Dr. & Mrs. William J. Hagood, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert  
"JJ" Orth

In memory of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. William C. Orth by Mr. & Mrs. K "JJ" Orth

In memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Noah C. Thomas by M.E., Brenda,  
and Donnie

In honor of our members and friends at Bethany by Pastor Art and Vicki. Have a blessed Christmas