



The Pilgrim

A Message from the Minister

The seasons of Advent and Christmas bring us the most familiar stories found in Scripture. If you read the Gospel accounts of the birth of Christ, you will find that Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus and goes on to include the wise men and the escape to Egypt. Mark starts with John the Baptist and says nothing about the actual birth. Luke gives us more details about John the Baptist (including Mary's visit to his mother, Elizabeth) and places shepherds and angels at the scene. Finally, John's account uses lofty spiritual words like "and the word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The differences in the Gospels provide an opportunity to explore how we understand the Bible. The Disciples of Christ have been called "A

people of the book," and in fact, our identity statement maintains that "We hold the centrality of scripture, recognizing that each person has the freedom – and the responsibility- to study God's word within the community of the church." Disciples believe that lay Christians can read the Bible if given basic instruction in how to do so. We do not believe that only specially trained people can understand scripture, so the task of interpretation belongs not just to clergy but to the whole community of faith.

This freedom does not come without its challenges. According to Disciples' minister and author, Michael Kinnamon, "we have indeed freed ourselves from the authoritative guidance of bishops and creeds; but we have not, for the most part, accepted the responsibility to be a bibli-

cally literate people." So, what are our responsibilities where the Bible is concerned?

First, the Bible is central to our faith because God is present in both the words of the scripture and our efforts to understand them. When we read scripture, we are responsible for praying that the Holy Spirit will direct our understanding. Second, we are responsible for applying reason and study to scripture. A good study Bible can help answer questions like who wrote the book we are reading? Why was it written? Who was the intended audience? Such questions can enrich our understanding of how God has moved through history and continues to move today. Third, we are

Continued on page 2

Worship Attendance
 November 1 —60
 November 8— 53
 November 15 — 56
 November 22— 53
 November 29— TBA

Inside this Issue

Children's Memorial	2
Advent Study	3
Calendars	4-5
Worship News	6

9:45 A.M. Coffee
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship

Message from the Minister (continued)

responsible for recognizing that we bring our own experiences and biases to the study of scripture. Personal experience inevitably influences how we read the Bible, which brings me to my last point. Christians live in community, and we are responsible for studying God's words within the community of the church. This not only keeps us from self-serving interpretation, but it strengthens us as the Body of Christ. We grow as we meet to dis-

cuss the words of the Bible and as we allow those words to speak to us as people joined in discipleship.

So, you see, the Disciples of Christ take biblical study quite seriously. We rely on the Holy Spirit, scholarship, and the collective wisdom of the Body for our interpretation. If you've thought about beefing up your own biblical literacy, this is a wonderful time of year to begin. Start with the Gospel stories of the

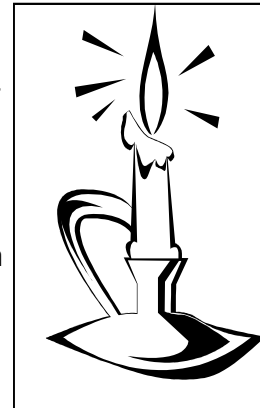
birth of Christ. Compare and contrast them. Learn about the times in which they were written. Learn about the people for whom they were written. Come to Sunday School and the Advent Studies to talk with other believers. Use this time to prepare the way in your own heart for the coming of Christ.



Lea can be contacted via email: wmcc@dockpoint.net

Children's Memorial Day Candlelight Remembrance December 13, 2009

Johnston County will celebrate the Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Ceremony in honor of national Children's Memorial Day on December 13th at 7:00 PM. This is a world-wide observance for families and friends to remember those children who passed away before their time. As candles in one time zone are lit and then burned to completion, new candles are lit in the next time zone creating a wave of light around the world. The memorial is open to all families and friends who wish to honor a child who has died, at any age or from any circumstance. The event will be held at our church. You should plan on arriving by 6:45 PM to receive your candle and register to have your child's name acknowledged during the ceremony. If you

wish, you may bring a picture of your child to place on our memory table. A reception will follow the ceremony. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Sheree Murray at (919) 553-6000 or email JCChildren-mem@aol.com. There is no cost for this event. It is open to all. Please feel free to invite friends and relatives to join us.



Yearbook Time	Adult Christmas Party??
 <p>It's that time again! Time to update our yearbooks. Please take a look at your current copy of the yearbook. If you have updates or changes, please either email them to the office at wmcc@dockpoint.net or give the changes to Lea in writing. This will keep her "forgetter" from kicking in. Thank you!</p>	<p>This year, our Christmas party will actually be a New Year's party held on January 8th at 6:30 PM at the home of Chris and Sheree Murray. CWF made the change from a Christmas party to a New Year's party with the hopes that this would simplify your calendar for December. Please bring a \$5 gift (or unwanted Christmas present) for our gift fight...I mean, gift exchange. And, remember our meal is potluck, so bring your prize recipe!</p> 

Advent Study

If the holiday season tends to 'take off' for you and leaves you wondering on December 26th what happened to heavenly peace, please plan to attend our Adult Advent studies at 7:00 PM on December 3rd (at the home of Carrie and Trey Ragland) and December 10th (at the home of Pat and Alex Wilson). The theme for this year's study comes from a comment made by Lauren Trogdon at our workshop, "Unplugging the Christmas Machine." She remarked that last year's Christmas was one of the best in her memories because she and Thomas were home waiting for a baby. You will remember that Miss Lila was born on January 2. That is what Advent is all about...waiting for a baby. So, our theme this year will be "Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited." We will



explore readings from a prophet or two. The Prophets are perfect for leading us into our work of Advent which is waiting and preparing for the Messiah. This is not a simple task as our culture (both the church and the community) pushes us to prepare in bigger ways each year, even though the preparation often takes us away from the waiting and preparing for the Messiah. We will also explore the story from Mary's (the mother of Jesus) perspective and from Elizabeth's (mother of John the Baptist) perspective. We hope that this will be a time for you to prepare Him room. Please join us.

December Worship Service

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Church Appointments	Karen Klahre Janet Stephenson Mary Ann Yansom	Karen Klahre Janet Stephenson Mary Ann Yansom	Karen Klahre Janet Stephenson Mary Ann Yansom	Karen Klahre Janet Stephenson Mary Ann Yansom
Elder	Kevin Daughtry	Ginger Lee	Dawn Hodge	Janet Stephenson
Deacons	Joe Slaton Peter Wilson	Armando Mejia Carrie Ragland	Linda Ramsey Glen Barrow	Carrie Ragland Joe Slaton
Worship Leader	Travis Stephenson	Paula Bennett	Trey Ragland	Jason Lawhorn
Nursery	Linda Wilson Kim Williams	Carole and Morgan Eatmon	Ann Ennis Kim Williams	Dawn and Brenna Hodge
Acolytes	Nora McCarthy	Kaylen Mejia	Emily Dumonceaux	Angel Sauls
Paraments	Blue	Blue	Blue	White

Birthdays

Dec. 5	Brian Langston	Dec. 20	Kay Parrish
Dec. 7	Jamie Twisdale	Dec. 23	Linda Ramsey
Dec. 7	Jay Twisdale	Dec. 27	Nora McCarthy
Dec. 10	Kristin Ennis	Dec. 27	Clark Stephenson
Dec. 12	Sonny Amon	Dec. 30	Donna Creech
Dec. 13	Harrison Twisdale		
Dec. 15	Emily Ramsey		
Dec. 15	Jean DePoy		
Dec. 16	Sharon Sutton		
Dec. 19	Wyatt Twisdale		



Upcoming Events

- Advent Study—Dec. 3 & 10 at 7 PM
- Service of Music—Dec. 13 at 11AM
- Children's Memorial Service—Dec. 13 at 7 PM
- WMCC Women head to the Biltmore—Dec. 13
- Service of Healing—Dec. 17 at 7 PM
- Christmas Eve Service—Dec. 24 at 9 PM

2009 Tithes and Offerings

	Pledged	Pledges Rec.	Difference	Donations
October	\$9,678	\$6,080	(\$3,578)	\$1,937
Year to Date	\$96,780	\$81,507	(\$15,273)	\$11,203

Post this page on the refrigerator!

December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lea will be out of town December 4-6. Dr. Rod Werline from Barton College will preach for us on December 6.		1	2 Handbells 6:00PM	3 Advent Study 7PM (home of Carrie & Trey Ragland)	4	5
6	7	8	9 Handbells 6:00PM	10 Advent Study 7PM (home of Pat & Alex Wilson)	11	12
13 Congregational Mtg. noon Chidren's Mem. 7PM	14 WMCC Ladies visit Christmount & the Biltmore	15	16 Handbells 6:00 PM	17 Service of Healing 7PM	18	19
20	21 Birthday Party for Jesus 6 PM Men's Study 6:30 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 9PM	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Post this page on the refrigerator!

The Children's Sermon



One way to include children in a worship service is to provide a children's sermon. There are certain values to this practice. 1) It makes the children aware that they are included in the

fellowship of the congregation and they are important. 2) It ensures that the children will have a least one part designed specifically for them. Certain parts of worship may be beyond the understanding of the smaller children. 3) It is a means of instruction, and it becomes a means of

teaching children to participate in the general worship service. 4) It may create interest among the children, teaching them to listen to other sermons.

The primary purpose of the children's sermon is to point the children to God by teaching the Gospel.

So, thank you to Ashley Reffit for her years of service in providing a children's sermon each Sunday. And, thank you to Louise Dumonceaux and Sherri Yaroch who will now be continuing this important worship tradition.

Worship News....

The Advent Season always brings many opportunities for worship and spiritual growth. We hope that you will find the events planned for WMCC to be meaningful as you prepare for the joy of Christmas.



Our worship service on December 13 will be a service of music. We will sing carols, listen to a solo or two, and our handbell choir will ring. Jane

Pardue will be our guest pianist. Please plan to attend and invite a friend! The music of the season is a powerful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

On Thursday, December 17, we will hold a

healing service. This is a reflective service of worship and is geared toward those who have had a difficult year, those who have experienced a loss, and those who for whatever reason are feeling "dis-eased" over the holidays. As in the past, we will provide the "laying on of hands" for those who wish to participate. We will also celebrate communion and sing in this candlelight service. We hope that it will be meaningful for all who take the time to attend. WMCC is the sole sponsor of this worship service but we are inviting the community at large.



Prayer Concerns

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without Ceasing."

Ina Mae Lee
Blake McCain

Donald Coates
Cathy New

Ione Gainey
Billy Blackmon

Family of Elaine Long
Donita Byrd Jones

Jeff Trask
Michelle Stephens

Jody Wiley
Cheryl Bryant

Frank Yansom

Peggy Norris
Betty Parrish

Tyler Dunn
Annette Cobb

Updates

Please review the prayer concerns listed above. We would like to keep this list updated and accurate, so if there are changes, please let Lea know. Thanks!

New Web-site

WMCC has a rockin' new web-site at
www.wilsonsmillscc.org
Check it out!

LOGOS starts back on
Thursday, January 28th
Details to follow!

Men's Bible Study
Monday, December 21
6:30 PM

Birthday Party for Jesus



Bring your children from 6:00—8PM on December 21 as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with a Birthday Party for Jesus. All children are invited to take the time to remember the reason for the season. The celebration will include pizza, cake, and activities (including playing "dress up" with nativity costumes). We will also plan on taking the children caroling to a few of our church neighbors and members who will surely appreciate it!

We hope you can be there! Call Carrie Ragland with any questions--550-8251.



WILSON'S MILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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Phone: 919.934.2751
www.wilsonsmillsc.org

Info by Email	Congregational Meeting
<p>Each week, we send out announcements and prayer concerns electronically. If you would like to be included in our email list, please email the church office at wmcc@dockpoint.net</p> <p>Also, we have a small list of church members who have elected to receive the church newsletter by email. This saves postage and paper. If you would like to help out and receive your newsletter via email INSTEAD OF a snail mailed copy, please email the church office. Thanks!</p>	<p>We will have our regularly scheduled congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13th following our morning worship service. We will be voting on next year's budget and leadership and on constitutional changes. Each item has been voted on and approved by the General Board. If you would like to review the information in advance of the meeting, packets containing the proposed constitutional changes, budget, and slate of nominees for leadership are available and are located on the front center pew in the sanctuary.</p>