

NEWSLETTER : DECEMBER 23 2009

It's better to receive than to give

We have come to this one special evening (Christmas eve) and day (Christmas day) when I hope we are done with all of the buying of gifts for everyone else, and we can set our hearts on the real gift of Christ.

Last Sunday as I read the big sweeping vision of Isaiah, I was struck at how the message is so personal, so intimate. Yes, this "Prince of Peace...shall judge between the nations", but this "child has been born FOR US, a son given TO US" (9: 6, emphasis mine). God had us in mind when plotting out this great scheme, this Christmas present. Sure, grand and wonderful things will impact nations and peoples, but isn't it good to know that God had us specifically in mind when calling on Isaiah to speak hope, choosing Mary for motherhood, motivating Luke to record the events for us to read, and on down through the generations to this moment?

Martin Luther said, "Of what benefit would it be to me if Jesus would have been born a thousand times and it would have been sung daily in my ears that Jesus Christ was born, but that I was never to hear that Jesus Christ was born FOR ME?" (emphasis Luther's).

You have considered, haven't you, that you're getting the best gift this year? The perfect fit and exactly what you need. It is the grace of Jesus Christ wrapped just right in God's providential wisdom. The nativity story is the bow and ribbon. For you. Just for you.

Merry, Merry Christmas.



**Children and Youth Dress Rehearsal
For The Not So Silent Night
Saturday, January 2
10:00 a.m.**

PLEASE come ready to say your lines, sing your songs, dance your dances, and act your play!

**Spaghetti Dinner
After Worship January 3rd
Bring salad or dessert!**

**The Not So Silent Night
Youth and Children's Play
Has been rescheduled
For January 3rd**

**Lunch after worship
Play will be at 1:15 p.m. (note the time!)**

YOUTH NEW YEAR'S KICK-OFF

Concert and Lock In

January 1

5:30 p.m.— Friday, January 1

Stay until Saturday, January 2 (Breakfast at 9 a.m. and

Play Practice at 10 a.m.)

CONCERT, ACTIVITIES, AND GAMES

The Mitten Tree is up and ready for decorating! Please bring mittens, gloves, caps, scarves, and socks to put on the tree. These donations go to children through the Ashland Family Resource Center.

"The Sunday before Christmas"

By Teresa Cassity

Twas the Sunday before Christmas
And all through the service
God's creatures were stirring; the Session was nervous
The cookies were laid by the doorway with care
In hopes a head minister soon would be there.
The choir they were nestled all snug with Max Jackson
While visions of Bob still danced with a passion.
Jennifer in robe and Mark in his pew
The congregation settled down for a well thought out clue
When all a sudden there arose such a clatter.
Pam Potter sprang from her pew
To see what was the matter
All looked to the narthex and knew in a flash
No need to worry-just a lemonade crash
The glint from the windows they gleamed and they glowed
Gave the luster of glory to prayers below
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
but a tray of elements holy and dear
With a sweep of her hand and a wipe of a tear
I knew in a moment communion was near.
More rapid than eagles the elders they came
broke bread with the people and Jesus proclaimed
To the front of the church to the very pew
Some brand new faces but mostly they knew
And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof
The pigeons quite many, they'd come home to roost.
Jennifer drew in her hand and was turning around
Down the aisle came the children they came with a bound
They jumped on the steps, they knocked down a few
While parents embarrassed slid down in their pews
Their eyes how they twinkled, their dimples how merry
Their smiles they were sunny, their noses some runny
The pastor she read from the word, from the truth
Parishioners nodded, they needed no proof
A close of her eyes and a bow of her head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread
And raising her hand benedicting they rose
A blessing she gave them right down to their toes
She had no sleigh and they gave no whistle
But soon away they all flew like the down of a thistle
But I heard her proclaim as they drove out of sight
Jesus is born! We can sleep sound tonight!

Sunday, January 10th

Beans & Cornbread after Worship to welcome Rev. Bugg

Monday, January 18th

Turkey Noodle Soup for Martin Luther King Day
Bring sandwiches or desserts. If you'd like to help, contact
Ann Wiseman or Betty Jean Phipps



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THIS WEEK

“Connecting our Community to the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ.”

SUNDAY'S ACTIVITIES

First Presbyterian Church
December 27, 2009

Sermon: Mark 2: 18-22
 Evan Fisher
Usher: Heather Patton
Greeter:
Acolyte: Will Frye
Liturgist: Ruth Ann Hall

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Woodland Oaks: Delbert Davis, Bill Watson, Ruth Faulkner
Trinity Station: Janet Cooper, Opal Vincell
Kingsbrook: Polly Irvine, Jean Young, Ruby Moody
Kings Daughters & Sons: Eda Rae Thornbury
At Home: Donna Rickey, Bob Bartley, Joan Adams, Julia Richmond, Deborah Taylor, Shirley Kocchi, Edwin Conley, Nicholo Rose, David Messer, Danny Brown, Ted Coleman, Larry Patterson, John Preece (Sharon Adkins's Father), Edwin Jolly (Krista All's Father), Rick Presley (David Murphy's uncle), Helen Harry, Jan Walz, Jane VanAntwerp, Doug Maddox, Ed Lake, Bob Doss
KDMC: Pam Peebles
Jo Lin Health Center: Allen Moon
In the Service: Jay McCoy, Troy Fairchild, Rebecca Sharp, Megan Caudill, David Keen, Lee Sharp, Tim Gross
Out of State: Clay Boyles (W.Va.), Jim Murphy (TN)
At Seminary: Julie Maggard
Louisville: Josh, Alicia, & Jameson Creed McCollister (P. Morris)

First Presbyterian Church
December 27– January 2

Sunday 9:30 Sunday School
 10:30 Chancel Choir
 10:50 Worship/Rev. Fisher

Monday 1:30 Care Share & Prayer Group
 6:00 Kung Fu (Ages 13 & Up)
 7:00 Tai Chi

Tuesday 6:00 Kid's Kung Fu
 7:00 Tai Chi

Wednesday No Manna; No Winchester Bells or Chancel Choir

Thursday No Kung Fu/Tai Chi

Friday New Year's Day!

Saturday 11:00 Tai Chi
 12:00 Kung Fu (13 & Up)
 1:00 Kid's Kung Fu

NO MANNA this week or next week!
Manna will resume January 6

Some of you asked about the soup we had at the lunch last Sunday. Here is the recipe:

Smoked Sausage, Butternut Squash, and Wild Rice Soup

*2 medium butternut squash, about 3 or 4 pounds, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1 inch chunks
 *2 Tbl olive oil
 *Salt
 *Freshly ground black pepper
 *12 Cups chicken stock
 *2 1/2 Cups chopped onions
 *1 Cup wild rice
 *3/4 pound smoked sausage, such as kielbasa, cut into 1/4 inch
 *2 Cups fresh corn kernels
 *1 1/2 Cups half-and-half
 *Tbl chopped fresh parsley

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Season the squash with 1 Tbl of the oil, salt, and pepper. Place on a baking sheet and roast for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until tender.

Remove from the oven and cool completely. In a blender or food processor, puree the squash with 2 cups of the chicken stock. Puree until smooth and set aside.

In a saucepan, over medium heat, bring 4 cups of the stock and 1/2 cup of the chopped onions to a simmer. Stir in the rice and cook until the rice is tender and liquid is absorbed, about 1 hour, stirring with a fork. Remove the rice from the pan and cool. In a large saucepan, over medium heat, add the remaining Tbl of oil. When oil is hot, add the sausage and brown for 3 minutes. Add the remaining 2 cups of onions and corn. Season with salt and pepper. Saute for 3 minutes. Add the remaining 6 cups of stock and squash puree. Bring to a boil Reduce the heat to medium low, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Skim off any fat that rises to the surface. Stir in the rice and cook for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat, stir in the half-and-half and season with salt and pepper. Stir in the parsley and serve.

◆ This was taken from foodnetwork.com. Recipe courtesy of Emeril Lagasse. We also add fresh sliced mushrooms (can sauté with the onions and corn).