

ADVENT INTO CHRISTMAS

For some of us the seasons of Advent and Christmas merge gently, invisibly. For others, the seasons seem sharply divided. Some of us would sing Christmas carols prior to Thanksgiving and thus join the pace of the merchandising of Christmas known through our land. Others would resist any temptation to "jump the calendar" on Christmas celebration and hold to songs of Advent through Christmas Eve.

I suspect that no Christian can read the Old Testament as an unbeliever would read it. Convinced that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the Suffering Servant, the Saviour of the world, the convictions of our faith based on the New Testament record shape our understandings of the Old Testament. In the same fashion, try as we may, we cannot recover the real historic sense of Advent because we know, both in history and in personal experience, that Jesus was born, that the Christ has come. The imagery of our pageants, of the ornaments on the Christmas tree, the statements on Christmas cards, and many other evidences, all testify, ahead of the event, to our faith in Christ.

Do we not have great reason to rejoice because while not every knee bows to Him, not every tongue confesses that He is Christ, multitudes do so bow and so confess - and we are part of that multitude? Is it not a great blessing that even as we celebrate Advent, we "think" Christmas? So our songs, so our activities move from one focus to the other. "O Come All Ye Faithful" in many ways is thoroughly appropriate for a celebration in May, August or October as in December.

Let us in Advent thank God for the consciousness of Emmanuel, God with us, so strongly pervading our minds and our lives, that Advent and Christmas do blend into each other and the entire season is one for thanksgiving, joy, dedication and celebration!

- - Ed Smith

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GIFTS FOR CAMBODIAN RELIEF AND FOR OUR DISTRICT CHRISTMAS OFFERING may be made at any time in December. Earlier editions of the Messenger have given some details of the intentions of these special offerings. You are invited to share!

ENERGY CONSUMPTION: Churches, like all other public buildings, are subject to energy consumption regulation. Department of Energy rules as of 16 July 1979 provide that a public building may not be heated to a higher temperature than 65 degrees F during the winter. If the building is unoccupied for a period of eight hours or more, the heating system must not be operated unless the outside temperature falls below 50 degrees F.

Circuit Rider, Nov-Dec 1979, p. 11

MEALS ON WHEELS: Our Thanksgiving offering and other gifts for Meals on Wheels now total \$918.73. Thank you for your generosity.

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULES: There will be no issue of the Messenger the week of 23 December. The Messenger which is mailed on Tuesday, 18 December, will be printed quite far in advance of those days. The Messenger mailed on 18 December will include notations on activity through Saturday, 5 January, 1980. Please give to the Church office now material for these publications. Thank you.

THE GIFT OF LIFE: Duke Memorial is among the Durham congregations that work with the American Red Cross blood collection program. For many reasons blood collection in our city is lagging at this point. Let only one figure suffice: through October, we were 719 units behind our schedule for 1979. As a center of medical treatment and research, our county uses a great deal of blood. It can come from only one place - our veins! Give the gift of life this year by taking a few minutes on 26 December - yes, the day after Christmas - and go to the blood collection center, 1000 East Forest Hills Blvd., behind Forest Hills Shopping Center and give your individual gift of life to some one. This is a special day - your response will make it indeed special.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1979

Third Sunday in Advent

The Gospel: St. Matthew 11:2-10

The Sermon: When the Shoe Doesn't Fit?

Acolytes: Christie Bollinger & Dawn Lampley

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Dixon, Sr.

Junior Church Leaders: Danny and Lynn Goodwin  
Louise Few, assistant

BIBLE READINGS: December 16 - 22, 1979

December 16	James 1 - 5
17	I Peter 1 - 2
18	I Peter 3 - 5
19	II Peter 1 - 3
20	I John 1 - 3
21	I John 4 - 5
22	II John
	III John
	Jude



THE BULLETIN  
DUKE MEMORIAL  
METHODIST CHURCH (USPS 553-880)  
504 West Chapel Hill Street  
Durham, N. C. 27701  
Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist Church  
504 West Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

Second Class Postage  
Paid at  
Durham, N.C.

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\* THE CHRISTMAS STORY \*  
\* in Scripture, Tableau, and Music \*  
\*  
\* Sunday, December 16, 1979 Pageant Director: Libby Younts \*  
\* 5:30 p. m. Music Director: Jane Lynch \*  
\* in the Sanctuary All choirs will sing. \*  
\*  
\* Following the Pageant and Music Program, there will be Luminaries prepared by the \*  
\* Junior High UMYF, a light supper by Eva Martin, and an Open House throughout the \*  
\* building to view Classroom Doors that tell "What's Important About Christmas."The \*  
\* U. M. W. Circles are preparing thousands of cookies for supper!!! \*  
\* Join us for this beautiful and festive occasion!!!! (Nursery provided) \*  
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GRATITUDE AND DEEP APPRECIATION FROM ALL OF US is expressed to Maude Dunn for the Advent wreath; to Mary Byerly for the boxwood used in it; to Lucille and Buck Mortland for the gift of the Chrismon tree; to Edith and Al Johnson for decoration of Whitford Hall, and to Pat Coman and Sarah McCracken for decorating the Chrismon tree.

CHAPELS for residents of Centers for the Retarded in North Carolina are the goal of a campaign to raise \$2,000,000 across the state. There are no state or federal funds for these chapels. Gifts may be sent directly to: Chapels for N. C. Centers for Retarded, P. O. Box 11099, Raleigh, N. C. 27604.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER: Mrs. Kenneth (Ann) Houseworth, 200 Seven Oaks Road, Apt. 6-G, 27712 was received into Duke Memorial last Sunday by transfer from the Newnan UMC, Newnan, Ga. Her telephone number is 477-1132. She is already a member of the Katie Johnson Sunday School Class. Her daughter is Ellen (Mrs. William) Sewell; Ellen and Bill are very active members of Duke Memorial. Telephone, visit, or write a note of welcome to Ann. You will both be glad!

THE CONGREGATION AND PASTORS express love and sympathy to:  
Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Cooke because of the death of Mr. Cooke's sister, Telma Watts, December 12, 1979

Eugene and Sophie Cole because of the death of Eugene's sister, Annie C. Brown, of Rougemont

The family of Frankie Williams who died Sunday, 9 December 1979

The family of William Few who died Sunday, 9 December 1979

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:  
Altar Guild  
In loving memory of T. E. Allen, Jr. by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Irving Allen and  
Charles C. Haynes, Jr.  
Mrs. Jack Cliff  
Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Phillips, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Long, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Duncan Hays and Virginia  
Lumberton, N. C.

Good Samaritan Fund  
In loving memory of T. M. Aycock by:  
Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Persons, Jr.  
In loving memory of Mrs. D. C. Hall by:  
Mrs. Jack Cliff  
In loving memory of T. E. Allen, Jr. by:  
Circle 10 of UMW

Missions  
In loving memory of T. E. Allen, Jr. and  
Arlene Guyer Hall by Julia Wyche Cherry

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 9 December 1979  
Sunday School.....315  
Morning Worship.....368

HOSPITALIZED:  
DCGH: Elizabeth Jones 4117  
Annie D. Morton 7224  
Edith Meacham 7306  
Duke Dorothy Wilson 2126

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PROJECT: Please save postage stamps with 1/4 inch border around each one. Bring to Church Office please.

CHURCH CALENDAR December 16 - 22, 1979  
Sun. 9:45 a. m. Church School  
10:55 a. m. Morning Worship  
5:30 p. m. Pageant  
Tues. 11:00 a. m. Circle 8 covered dish luncheon with Mrs. A. B. Craig  
3522 Westover Road  
8:00 p. m. Sr. Basketball game vs. Epworth UMC at Central YMCA  
Wed. 7:00 a. m. Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall  
12:00 Noon Devotions and Lunch, Wes Aiken, speaker  
Thurs. 7:30 p. m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

IN MEMORIAM

Frankie Williams, 9 December 1979  
William Few, 9 December 1979

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"