

ADVENT

Those who are fond of apocalyptic often read the terrifying passages in the Revelation of St. John and dwell at length on the fires; the mystical symbols and the esoteric framework of the letter. It is easy for them to forget that immediately after all this comes "a new heaven and a new earth". The end brings the beginning. When a king dies, public announcement is, "The king is dead, long live the king", meaning, among other things, that the successor king is always in line. Once again, the end incorporates a beginning.

As this year's calendar reads, the last Sunday in Kingdomtide is 23 November. The First Sunday in Advent comes on 30 November. The inevitability of an end to one year, be it a civil, solar, personal, liturgical year or whatever kind, ought to remind us of the gracious promise of God that another begins. So, let us view the coming of Advent as the beginning of another year which it is - and let us think of it as a time of renewal and spiritual refreshment.

Advent is a call to history, to be sure. It is also a call to a forward look. The golden age of Christianity is ever in the future, the full coming of the Kingdom of God. The opening years of Christianity came soon after the turn of the era as we date things. With thanksgiving to God, we look backward in history to the time Jesus was among men and as one of us, even though at the same time He was far more than any of us ever will be. A new age was ushered in - but it has yet to be realized in its fulness. Advent therefore has also a forward look. But one may ask, how far in the future is the coming of the Kingdom? Jesus warned against idle speculation about that!

What about Advent today - next Sunday? This is the Advent which is ours to live, to experience, to find new strength of spirit, purpose and direction in life. Lighting the candles of the wreath ought to be one way we re-light the faith that is in us. All else that is part of our celebration is done not merely for the sake of tradition, but far more to the point, to enable us in our time to be good witnesses of the life in faith in Christ, and in that faith, to be good stewards of the mysteries of the Gospel.

All that an much more is wrapped up in Advent 1980. Share in the life of this congregation on these Sundays and be blessed as you bless others.

-- Ed Smith

POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY on Sundays, 14 and 21 December, will pay honour to or be a lovely memorial of family and friends. They are available for your use after the morning service on 21 December. This year they are priced at \$10.40 (tax included). Requests must be in the church office by noon Wednesday, 10 December, in order that a suitable listing in the Order of Service be made. Checks with a clear statement of the persons honoured or memorialized may be placed in the offering plate at any service or mailed to the church office. Thank you.

WATCH OUT - not "beware" but "Watch out for the goodies!" Advent and Christmas form one of the wonderful and blessed seasons of Church life. Lots of good things are going to be happening at Duke Memorial and you will want not to miss them. Be with it and we will all be thankful.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE: The Church Office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, 27 November. The Office will close at noon on Christmas Eve, and reopen for the usual hours on Monday, 29 December. It will be closed New Year's Day. For emergencies, special needs or information when the office is closed call Mr. Smith, 489-2210, Mr. Haddock, 493-3941, Mrs. Massey, 489-5179, or Miss Biddle, 477-9019. Thank you.

NOON ADVENT-LENT services will begin in the Bradshaw Room Wednesday, 3 December. The first speaker is W. E. Whitford. The service is 12:10 - 12:30 and all attending are invited to a light luncheon in Whitford Hall following. These services will continue each Wednesday through 15 April with the exception of Christmas Eve when the service will be omitted.

THE NICENE CREED will be used as the affirmation of faith for the four Sundays in Advent. This ancient statement of Christian faith, somewhat more detailed than the affirmation usually used, can help us grasp anew something of the enormous meaning of Jesus Christ's coming among men.

MESSENGER SCHEDULE: Because of the day of the week on which Christmas and New Year's Day come, and in order to allow staff members to complete their 1980 vacation periods, all announcements of activities for the period 21 December - 9 January must be in the church office by 10:00 Thursday morning, 11 December. There will be no issue of the Messenger for the weeks of 28 December and 4 January.

OVERHEARD at rehearsal for the Advent drama: Speaking to Junior Choir members, "When Christmas comes, who do you think of first - Santa or Jesus?"

SUNDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 1980

First Sunday in Advent

The Epistle: Romans 13:11-14

The Sermon: On the Mark and Ready?

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. William T. Coman

THE BULLETIN
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ADVENT DINNER AND DRAMA
Sunday, November 30 5:00 - 7:00 p. m.

The Evening's Schedule:

- 5:00 p. m. - Gather 'round the Wassail Bowl
5:30 p. m. - Drama "No Room in the Inn-Group"
(with a cast of children, youth, and adults)
Presented to help us examine our priorities during the Christmas Season
6:00 p. m. - Dinner and Fellowship
Candlelight closing

Let's spend the first Sunday in Advent together as the Duke Memorial community!

ADVENT RESOURCES FOR USE IN THE HOME

On Sunday, November 30, resources for Advent enrichment in the home will be displayed in the hallway outside the Library. Included in the display will be devotional books for use each day of Advent, a "Working Advent Calendar" packet for use with children, an Alternative Christmas Catalogue, and other helpful books and articles. Come by either in the morning or at the Advent Dinner and Drama on Sunday evening.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

- In loving memory of Mrs. A. H. Borland by:
Mr. and Mrs. R. Dillard Teer
The First and Second Grade Sunday School
Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church,
Severna Park, Maryland
- In loving memory of Dr. Anne H. Adams by:
Miss Nova Lou Ritter, Aberdeen, Miss.
- In loving memory of Lois Lee Fowler by:
Claude E. and Sandra Hamilton,
Matthews, N. C.
Stan and Judy Coble, Saltsburg, Pa.

VAN TRIP TO CHINQUA-PENN PLANTATION
December 11, 1980

Would you like to join us on a fun outing to enjoy the Christmas decorations at a historic Plantation near Reidsville? We'll visit the Plantation, have lunch in Reidsville, and stop at the Fieldcrest outlet for Christmas shopping on the way home.

We'll leave from the church parking lot at 8:30 a. m. and return at approx. 3:00 p. m. Cost will be \$5.50 (for ticket and transportation), plus lunch.

Call the church office to reserve one of the fourteen seats available on the Church Van.

Library Fund

In loving memory of Mrs. Lucille Shore Coburn, Mrs. Arlene Hall, Mrs. Annie Herring, and Mrs. Lillian Neagle by:
Circle 2 of UMW, Duke Memorial Church

FALL FESTIVAL MISSION FUND requests must be in by December 18. Louise Ervin and Elizabeth Bookhout will pass on to the Committee any suggestions which they receive. Decisions will be made for disbursements early in January.

THE PENSION CRUSADE REPORT is basically encouraging. As November 1980 ends, we are at the half-way mark in the time period. So far as possible, please see that your pledges are up to date. The Conference Board of Pensions will decide early in December how much the Pension rate can be raised for 1981. Such gifts right now are timely! Thank you.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to Robert D. Crews and his family because of the recent death of his father, Daniel Crews, in Oxford.

COMING EVENT

A Program of Christmas Music
presented by the three choirs
of Duke Memorial Church
Sunday, December 14, 5:00 p. m.
Followed by a light supper for all!

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAZAAR (continued)
Wednesdays

December 3 and December 10
Parlor open 11 a. m. - 2:00 p. m.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 23 November 1980
Church School.....228
Morning Worship.....347

CHURCH CALENDAR NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6

Sun. 9:45 a. m. Church School
10:55 a. m. Morning Worship
3:30 p. m. Advent Play Rehearsal
4:30 p. m. Jr. & Carol Choirs
5:00 - 7:00 Advent Dinner & Drama
Tues. 6:00 p. m. Katie Johnson Dinner
Wed. 12:10 p. m. Devotions and Lunch
6:00 p. m. Visitation Supper
7:30 p. m. Council on Ministries
Thurs. 7:30 p. m. Sanctuary Choir

HOSPITALIZED:

DCGH: Scotty McLean 5315
Charles Mercer 6320