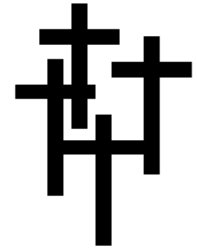


Northside News



Volume 41

December 16, 2010

Volume 16

From the Pastor

Christmas is not easy. I never knew how much work Christmas was until I started having to worry about gifts for children. Now, every year I get anxious, trying to find gifts that mean something for the people I care about. I am sure that one of the reasons we (as a people) spend so much money at Christmas is that we are anxious, busy, and fragmented.

To give a genuine gift, you have to know somebody – what they want, and maybe what they don't yet know that they really do want. I wonder if Christmas is so challenging because it exposes how little we know about each other, even the ones we live and work beside every day.

Christmas can be hard work if you're grieving. I lost Dad three years ago last Saturday, and although I am able to celebrate, I still associate December with his loss. Christmas often demands a lot of celebration, and that can be tough for those who feel tender losses.

Christmas is hard work if you're prone to skepticism or cynicism. We are given a lot to believe at Christmas, and a good bit of what we are given to believe is wondrous: a virgin giving birth, an aging couple conceiving, angels visiting shepherds in a field. If you're prone to skepticism or cynicism, Christmas is a lot to take in.

Christmas is hard, but Christmas is worth the hard work. It's worth it to stop what you're doing and take stock of the people you love: who are they, and how can I honor them with a gift? That's a really good thing to have to do every year.

It is worth it to try and meet grief with Christmas joy. We went caroling again last week, and I remembered again that Christmas is about the Word made flesh. It is about God's loftiest Thought becoming real and moving into the neighborhood. It's about sitting next to each other, holding hands, weeping together, and singing in each other's living rooms.

Christmas is worth the theological and mental effort, too. Christmas is not just a fairy tale; it is a story about God giving God's self. It is a story about God's ability to create something real out of nothing. It is good news that challenges emperors and kings, and speaks to workers and immigrants.

Christmas is hard work, but it's good work, and it is worth doing well. Keep up the good work.

Peace,
Stan

Giving at Christmas

December is the month when we count on strong end of the year giving. This year we want to invite you to do two things:

First, consider an end of the year gift.

Second, before the year is over, please take a moment to sit down and decide what you will give on a regular basis beginning in January. If you're not giving regularly, consider starting with \$10 per week. If you are giving regularly, ask yourself whether you want to increase your giving.

If everyone will do those two things (consider an end of the year gift and decide what they will give in the coming year), we will meet our budget.

The good news is that we are very close to meeting that budget and it is well within our capacity to do so. The challenge is that we very much need to make this budget.

Did you know that the average churchgoer now gives just 2.5% of his or her income to the church? A tithe is ten percent. I do not know where you are with that, but just a slight, regular increase in giving could make a big difference in our ability to offer gospel ministry in our community.

We need to finish the year having giving what we said we would give. We need to look at each other and say, "We did it." And then we need to look to the coming year and ask, "What is God calling us to be and do in our community this year, and how can I be part of that."

Remember: We have everything we need to be who God has called us to be.

The 2010 Advent Season Behold: A New World

Sunday, December 19

10:30 a.m. The Fourth Sunday of Advent:

The Fulfilled Sign

The Chancel Choir performs "Holy Light"

by Robert A. Hobby

Friday December 24

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

**Youth Progressive Christmas Party
December 19, 2010
5:00 p.m.**

All youth are invited to our Youth Progressive Christmas Party. We will begin at the Youth House at 5:00 p.m. for soup and bread, and we will conclude at the Wilson's house for dessert and a bonfire. Parents, we'll have chaperones to drive, and older youth may also take a car if that is more convenient. Friends are invited as always.

Youth Group in January

Regular Youth Group will begin again on Sunday January 9. We will be looking at Leadership: How do you make a difference in your school, your family, and your community? First week: "True Leadership vs. False Leadership." James Stringer and Stan Wilson will be working on this series together.

Advent Missions Offering

Bob and Janice Newell provide ministry among Albanian families in Greece. The center of their ministry is a community house in Athens known as Porta. \$2500 of our Advent Mission Offering will provide resources to mentor selected Albanian high school students, teaching them to practice servant leadership. The funds will also assist in a short-term language project for adults.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church building in Holmes County was destroyed by the tornado that swept through Mississippi in the spring of 2010. Mississippi CBF is involved in the rebuilding. Several members of Northside participated in a work-day on December 4. \$2500 of our Advent Mission Offering will go toward needed furnishings for this church upon its completion.
Goal \$15,000
Gifts to date \$ 1,490

**Christmas Prayer Walking
Saturday, December 18, 2010
4:00 p.m.**

Have you thought of *prayer walking* in your neighborhood? Want to know more about it? Those who are interested will meet at the church on Saturday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. for a few instructions before walking or riding through their own neighborhoods, praying that friends and neighbors will experience the joy we share in the birth of the Christ Child.

**Women's Retreat
Finding Rest**

February 25-27, 2011

Better is one hand full of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind. Eccl.4:6

We are returning to the St. Moses the Black Priory, Raymond, MS (www.stmosestheblackpriory.org). The cost is \$70 (two nights lodging, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and Saturday dinner; we all contribute homemade goodies for breakfast Saturday and Sunday). **There is limited space so a \$35 deposit is needed to hold a spot.** Brochures will be available in the narthex and the church office.

Extended Session Volunteers

Dec 19

Infants
Toddlers
Preschool

Trina Cobb
Mary Louise Meadors
Margaret Drummond

Dec 26

Infants
Toddlers
Preschool

Meg Bartlett
Cliff Johnson
John Meadors

Sunday School Workers for Babies

Dec 19
Dec 26

Lesla Meaders
Deborah Fry

Caregiving Concerns

Ellen Brewer, recovering from neck surgery
Clyde Hemphill, at The Highlands Home
Mary Ann Isbell, rehab therapy in Madison, Nichol's Center
Judy Yates, recovering at home

On-Going Caregiving Concerns

Harry Bakker, friend of Don Nyberg
Geri Bowie, sister of Thelma Basley
Jim Bowie, Thelma Basley's brother-in-law
Evelyn Brewer, mother of David Parks
Shirley Campbell, sister of Jo Ann Pope
Howard Cohen at home, dialysis
Callie Cole, in a coma, friend of Sara Campbell
Jamie Franks, daughter of Lynda Cook
Marjorie Gore
Lee Hackett, Carrie Chester's sister
Nancy Hancock, recovering at home
Becky Harrison, aunt of Beth Dickinson
Clarissa Hickman, friend of Edith Kennedy
Carolyn Hisaw, wife of Tony Hisaw
Mrs. Abby Jones, at The Orchard in Ridgeland
Lake Jones, in Seattle, WA
Reilly Montgomery, 9 year old girl, stage 3 cancer, friend of Beth Dickinson's family
Mary Sue Nations, at home
Ruth Parker, daughter-in-law of Lynda Cook
Clayton Powers
Richard Ritchie, Ridgeland Pointe
Bernice Rook, charter member, leukemia
Sylvia Smith, recovering from back surgery
Linda Stark, sister-in-law of Bill Stark
Bill Strum
Merle Thomas
Freddie Weeks, cancer, friend of Graham Carner
Johney Williams, mother of Roxie Parks
Roy and Gladys Williams, grandparents of Graham Carner
Margie White, (wife of former State Senator White) She has lung cancer.

Members at Home

Mrs. Margaret Hensley
Chrys Ray

In Sympathy

We extend loving sympathy to Mary Lea and Ricky Nations, Emily and Will Nation's, in the death of Mary Lea's father, Roy C. Bratton.
Also, loving sympathy is extended to Deniece Jenkins in the death of her brother, Fred Parker



Northside Baptist Church
1475 E Northside Drive
Clinton, MS 39056

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PERMIT #116

Church Staff

Frances Chisolm	Interim Secretary
Jamie Meaders	Minister of Music
Susan Meadors	Minister of Family Life
Mack Murriel	Custodian and Chef
Troy Murriel	Custodian
Jo Ann Pope	Organist
Dottie Serio	Pianist
Stan Wilson	Pastor

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