

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, November 29, 2009

9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*If you are curious, and have come to see  
If you are weary, and have come to rest  
If you are grateful, and have come to share  
If you are hurting, and have come for solace  
If you are listening, and have come to pray  
If you are seeking, and have come for answers  
WELCOME*

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE – “Sleepers, Wake! A Voice is Calling” .....J.S. Bach

\*\* CHORAL INTROIT – “Prepare the Way” ..... Franzen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Happy is the one whose help is in God.

**People: I will sing praises to God as long as I live.**

Leader: Trust in the Lord, and worship God’s name.

**People: Our hope is in God, who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

9:00 a.m. - Ricky & Suzanne Knox and Denton

11:15 a.m. - David & Laurie Robbins and Kelsey Green

The candle of hope is the first candle on the Advent Wreath. It symbolizes the hope of Israel for the Messiah and the Christian hope for the coming of Christ in final victory.

\* HYMN – No. 2 ..... HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You have taught us to be patient, and promised to supply our needs, O God. Yet we grow weary of waiting and restless with our wants. We blame our troubles on sisters and brothers, withholding from them the tolerance and care you have shown to us. O God, forgive our indulgence and help us to stand firm. In Christ you showed patience with the world in spite of the cross. Teach us to be patient, that in Christ we may have endurance in spite of our need.**

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**

\* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal, No. 579)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

\*\* CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER ..... Genevan

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

MORNING PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SOLO (9:00 a.m.) – “Prepare the Way of the Lord” ..... Hayes

K5 and first grade children leave for Children’s Church following the solo.

\*\* HYMN – No. 205 ..... LANCASHIRE

“All Hail to God’s Anointed”

sung to the tune of “Lead On, O King Eternal”

K5 and first grade children leave for Children’s Church after the last stanza.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 40:1-5 (Page 667) ..... Jennifer Shurley

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – John 1:19-28 (Page 92)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Ludwig Weaver

“Who Are You?”

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

SERVICE OF GIVING

Solo (9:00 a.m.) – “Of the Father’s Love” ..... arr. McKenney

Anthem (11:15 a.m.) – “Thou Shalt Know Him” ..... Hopson

\* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 592)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* HYMN – No. 15 ..... LLANGLOFFAN

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

\* BENEDICTION

\*\* CHORAL RESPONSE ..... Robinson

“We Will Walk with God”

\* POSTLUDE – “My Soul Rejoices” ..... Buxtehude

\* **All who are able may stand**

\*\* **11:15 a.m. service only**

<b>HEAD USHERS:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Bozzie Boggs
	11:15 a.m.	Buddy Puckett
<b>SPONSOR:</b>		Paul O’Neal
<b>GREETERS:</b>	9:00 a.m.	Trey Morrow, Chris Beard
		Denise Broderick
	11:15 a.m.	Vernon Anderson, Wes Bryant
		Anne Holleman
<b>LITURGIST:</b>		Jean Weaver

**If you are visiting this morning, we extend a special welcome to you. Westminster Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a community of faith open to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

PARKING

We have permission to use the parking lots at the Uniform Shop and Augusta Commons Mall.

TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

A Greenville city police officer will be on duty from 9:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. to help people cross the street from the other side of Augusta Road.

CHURCH NOTES

The leaders for Children’s Church this Sunday, November 29 are:

9:00 a.m. *Ruston & Beth Anne Eads*

11:15 a.m. *Robert & Libby Evans*

Musicians leading in worship this Sunday are: *Nancy Smith*, organist

9:00 a.m.

*Judy McKenney, alto*

11:15 a.m.

*Sanctuary Choir*

THORNWELL OFFERING

The Thornwell Home for children provides a place for children who need a stable home life, a solid education, and spiritual nurturing. As members of Westminster, we have an opportunity to share in meeting this need. Envelopes are provided in the Ritual of Friendship booklets. Please make checks payable to Westminster and designate for Thornwell.

NEW MEMBERS

Last Sunday, we welcomed the following new members into our fellowship:

**Anthony & Susan Bowie**, 318 Jones Ave., 29605, 250-9917, join by transfer from Christ Church Episcopal, Greenville. They have two sons, **Alexander**, age 4 and **James**, age 2.

**Rick & Susan Thompson**, 118 Rice St., 29605, 422-9291, join by reaffirmation of faith. They have a son, **Owen**, age 9 months.

PASTOR’S BAPTISM CLASS

A pastor’s baptism class will be held on **Wednesday, December 9, at 5:00 p.m.** in the Charter Room. Please sign up through the church office by calling 232-2424 or email [michelle@wpc-online.org](mailto:michelle@wpc-online.org).

CHRISTCARE GATHERINGS

ChristCare Small Groups continue to welcome visitors and new members. For more information, go to [www.wpc-online.org](http://www.wpc-online.org) and click on *Connect* and then *Small Groups*.

This week:

· **Simplifying Life Group: Monday, November 30**, Java Jolt in Mauldin. *Angie Coneybeer*, 281-7859.

· **Parenting Group: Wednesday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. in Room 213**, *Ben Rigby*, [btrigby@junoc.com](mailto:btrigby@junoc.com) or 239-0435.

· **Needlework Group: Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion**, *Midge Williams*, [momsie10@aol.com](mailto:momsie10@aol.com) or 232-7728.

TURKEY DAY OR THANKSGIVING:

**Rethinking Gratitude.**

All adults are invited to a joint Sunday School class **this Sunday, November 29** in Room 209. The theme will be gratitude to God - how to develop it and how to show it. *Jean Weaver* will explore it from the biblical and theological perspective and *Tod Hyche* will discuss tangible ways to express it today and for the future.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The members of the Thursday Morning Study are invited to a lunch/brunch following class on **December 3**. Please mark your calendars and join us in the Entrance Pavilion for a time of food, fellowship and laughter.

2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Tuesday, November 24, we have received \$1,444,011 in pledges toward our 2010 pledge goal of \$1,812,114.

For your convenience, pledge cards are in the pews, or you may mail in your pledge or send it by e-mail to the Church Financial Secretary, *Sherri Owens* at [secretary@wpc-online.org](mailto:secretary@wpc-online.org).

SIXERS

The Sixers group will *not* meet this **Sunday, November 29**. On **Sunday, December 6**, we will have a Christmas Progressive Dinner by traveling from restaurant to restaurant for each course. If you have any questions about the Sixers group, please call Barbara Stoop at 232-2424.

JUNIOR HIGHS

This **Sunday, November 29**, there will be *no* meeting due to Thanksgiving break. Next **Sunday, December 6**, we will go Christmas caroling for canned food. Please plan on getting to the church as close to **5:00 p.m.** as possible. If you have any questions about the Jr. High group, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

SENIOR HIGHS

This **Sunday, November 29**, there will be *no* meeting due to Thanksgiving break. If you have any questions about the Sr. High group, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

YOUTH WINTER RETREATS

We will be going to Camp Buc this year for our Winter Retreats. Our retreats will be on a Friday through Sunday, with a day trip to Sapphire Valley on Saturday for skiing or tubing. The cost is \$125. For the **Sr. Highs** our trip will be on **January 8-9** (please sign up by December 6th) and for the **Jr. Highs** our trip will be **February 19-21** (please sign up by January 17th).

GIFT WRAPPING AT THE MALL

Come join the youth at the mall for our annual fund raiser with the Beth Israel Synagogue and the Temple of Israel. This year we are wrapping presents on two weekends: **December 11,12; and 18, 19**. As we do every year, we are asking for your help. If you can wrap presents or if you just want to come to the mall and lend support, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 ext. 116 or 380-5269 or via e-mail at sphillips@wpc-online.org to sign up. Thank you for your help.

THE FLOCK

On **Tuesday, December 1**, *Beth Beard* will lead our study at **6:30 p.m.** If you want to join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m., please bring your own take-out. Enter through the bridge entrance on the side of the Fellowship Hall and we will be upstairs. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions about The Flock or if you would like to get on our email list, please call Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Our next meeting for our new young adult group (aiming at those in their twenties or early thirties) will be on **Wednesday, December 2**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** in the Sr. High Lounge. If you want to come early for dinner, sign up by **Monday, November 30**, by e-mailing michelle@wpc-online.org. If you have any questions about this new group or if you would like to get on our e-mail list please contact Steve Phillips at 232-2424 or 380-5269.

NEW MEMBER DINNER AND DECORATING

If you joined the church in the past year, you are invited to dinner and Chrismon Tree decorating on **Wednesday, December 2** with the New Member Assimilation Committee. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please make reservations for dinner by **Monday, November 30** on the church website or by calling the church office. Chrismon Tree Decorating will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Entrance Pavilion. If you have questions, contact *Nicole Ream* at nream@coldwellbankercaine.com or 269-8622 or *Susan McLarty* at smclarty@wpc-online.org or 232-2424 ext. 120.

WESTMINSTER BLOOD DRIVE

The final blood drive for 2009 will be **Monday, December 14**, from 3:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. As we approach the Advent Season your gift of donating blood is much needed. Contact *Stephen Demosthenes* at jstephen.demosthenes@gmail.com or call him at 918-2563. Give the Gift of Life.

THE HARBINGER  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
2310 Augusta Road  
Greenville, South Carolina 29605  
(864) 232-2424  
www.wpc-online.org

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Home Phone	370-2388
	<i>bstoop@wpc-online.org</i>
Associate Pastor	Stephen Phillips
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	<i>sphillips@wpc-online.org</i>
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	<i>dcarlson@wpc-online.org</i>
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	<i>smclarty@wpc-online.org</i>
Director of Music	Mark Kemp
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	<i>nls1949@aol.com</i>
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Office Manager	Michelle Little
	<i>michelle@wpc-online.org</i>
Secretary	Wendy Waldrop
	<i>wendy@wpc-online.org</i>
Maintenance	Rick Thompson
	Ivan Ryder

CONNECTIONS

Connections will have their monthly gathering on **Sunday, December 6**, after the 11:15 a.m. service. We will meet at Chef Manigault, 28 Howe St., 483-3942. Reservations are suggested. Contact *Dot Elmore* (286-0036 or dotelmore@bellsouth.net). Let's enjoy our Advent season together.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The church's offering envelopes are dateless and can be used until they run out. If you need more offering envelopes, please call the church office at 232-2424.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 29 - December 5, 2009

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. Moms In Touch  
5:40 p.m. Westminster Bells Rehearsal  
5:45 p.m. NAMI  
7:45 p.m. ChristCare: Simplifying Life Group Meeting  
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

TUESDAY

11:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women's Advent Luncheon  
12:00 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting  
Al-Anon  
5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts  
6:00 p.m. The Flock  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:45 p.m. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
3:00 p.m. "It's Elementary!" and Tweens  
3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal  
4:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. Choristers Rehearsal  
5:30 p.m. JustFaith  
6:00 p.m. Dinner  
ChristCare: Parenting Group  
6:30 p.m. Young Adult Group Meeting  
New Members to decorate Chrismon Trees  
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Bible Study Luncheon  
3:00 p.m. Daisy Troop  
4:30 p.m. Heritage Lecture  
Committee Meeting  
8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous



HOMETOWN PROPHET

From the somber, yet expectant, opening chords of the Sinfonia which begins Part One of *Messiah*, to the lilting tenor accompanied recitative "Comfort Ye," the animated aria "Every Valley," and the chorus "And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed," composer George Frideric Handel breathes life into today's Old Testament reading from Isaiah 40, which seems new upon every hearing.

This is a touching, beautiful passage in the Bible, one that we often encounter during Advent. We're taught that it foretells the ministry of John the Baptist, who comes to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. But is it relevant to us today? We ponder the meaning of John's ministry while on earth – he's a mystical figure, almost bigger than life! A long-awaited son born to aging parents, he clothes himself in animal skins, eats locusts and wild honey, and baptizes believers - and Jesus - in the River Jordan. He willingly accepts that he must decrease as Jesus increases...

"Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God. Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. Then God's bright glory will shine and everyone will see it." (The Message) It speaks to me in the present tense – it no longer reflects only the arrival of John the Baptist, but prompts me to ask, what am I doing in my life - or in the community at large - to prepare for Christ's coming this Advent season? Can we, as Christians, help prepare the pathway to God? Perhaps we can, by helping smooth the roads of suffering which surround us, or by walking alongside those near us who are experiencing lives lived in valleys rather than atop mountains.

Does God desire that we shine his Divine Light in and through us this Advent season? Are we called to be hometown prophets?

Yuri Ito

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

**Presbyterian Women Advent Luncheon**  
**December 1, 2009**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
*11:30 - doors open*  
*Noon - devotional / luncheon*  
*1:00 p.m. - Conclusion/social*  
**Cost: \$6.00**

Bring any slightly used winter coats to be distributed to PW mission projects.  
 Table arrangements will be sold after the luncheon.

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**LIBRARY/POINSETTIA MEMORIALS**

Those who wish to remember loved ones during the Christmas Season may do so in two ways. Poinsettias for the sanctuary may be purchased for \$15.00, or money may be given to buy library books. Poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary at the Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services. Orders must be placed by Monday, December 14. Please fill out the slip below or contact the church office, 232-2424. Donors may pick up their poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service you choose to attend.

Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Library Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR Poinsettias x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PROGRAM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 AT 5:45 P.M.**

We look forward to an all-church Christmas celebration with dinner followed by Rutter's *Magnificat* performed by Westminster's Sanctuary Choir, accompanied by full orchestra.

- **Dinner menu:** Roasted turkey breast, sweet potato casserole, cornbread dressing, gravy, green beans, salad and red velvet cake.
- **Children's Menu:** turkey, buttered egg noodles, fruit and green beans.

The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 3-11. Nursery will be available for children under three. Activities will be provided for those in K4-1st grade during the program. Sign up today by calling the church office at 232-2424 or by emailing michelle@wpc-online.org. Website sign-up is also available by visiting www.wpc-online.org. *Sign-ups for the dinner end on Friday, December 4.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adults (\$6.50) \_\_\_\_\_ Children (3-11) \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nursery # in Crib: \_\_\_\_\_ # in Crawler \_\_\_\_\_ # in Toddler \_\_\_\_\_

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