

From Your Pastor.

During this past Sunday's sermon, I gave some background information regarding the origins of celebrating Christmas on December 25th. After the service, many of you asked for that information again so you can share it with your friends/family/colleagues. So as best as I can recall my words, here it is again:

Centuries ago, darkness and cold led people to seek the light and warmth of the sun, and this led to the worship of the sun. This was especially true in the northern European countries. Romans observed the festival of Saturnalia on December 25, and people gathered to feast and celebrate. In the darkness, they worshiped the light.

Fourth-century Christians under Constantine wanted this solstice festival to become a Christian event, so they named it Christmas...Christ-mass...a time to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. They also set aside a preparatory time for the weeks before Christmas, and named it Advent.

So, Advent and Christmas became the means for Christians to take advantage of a common human experience, the longing for the light. Christian leaders interpreted this human experience on a deeper level, naming it "the longing for God," and solstice was transformed into a time of <u>hope</u>!

My desire for each of us this Advent is that we can recapture the hope of the season, and that hope will be evident in our lives!

Blessings and peace ...

Come Worship with Us Sunday!

Ramon

Our Mission...

"A people gathered in Christ; nurtured in His Spirit; and sent in His name."

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Sunday, December 7, 2008 10:45 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Children's Sunday

Sunday, December 14, 2008 10:45 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent

Sanctuary Choir presents One Incredible Moment

A cantata by Tom Fettke with narration by Max Lucado

GENERAL NEWS

A NOTE FROM MARY

In light of Ramon's sermon Sunday which spoke of our longing for light in a world of darkness, I thought I would share a song with you:

> Light of a Million Mornings Mark Gersmehl and Mark Hayes

I couldn't see the sunrise through the shadow. I couldn't seem to find a soul to care. And in my darkest hour, You touched me with Your power, and all at once Your light was everywhere.

The light of a million mornings filled my heart, the sound of a million angels sang my song. The warmth of a love so tender touched my life, and suddenly the light of a million mornings dawned in me.



I've never tried to understand the sunrise,

I only know it takes away the dark. I can't explain your healing, or all the joy I'm feeling, I only know You've come.

The light of a million mornings filled my heart, the sound of a million angels sang my song.

The warmth of a love so tender touched my life, and suddenly the light of a million mornings dawned in me.

And now that Your glory has come shining through, let my life be a candle, Lord, that shines for You.

The light of a million mornings filled my heart, the sound of a million angels sang my song.

The warmth of a love so tender touched my life, and suddenly the light of a million mornings dawned in me.

You are invited to join us as we celebrate Christ's coming:

December 7, morning worship Children's Sunday at Christmas

December 7, 6 pm Ainesis, Psalm 8:2, & Sing for God Present City On a Hill Christmas With APB Followed by reception in Smith Hall

Wednesday, December 10 6:45 pm Grace Notes present A Service of Lessons and Carols



December 14, morning worship Sanctuary Choir & Eyewitness Present One Incredible Moment, a cantata

December 14, 6 pm Channels & Sanctuary Bells Present A Christmas Concert Followed by reception in Smith Hall

> December 24, 5 pm Christmas Eve Service



Thank you College Park! Because of your generosity, our PJ Party was a huge success. We collected 40 pairs of pajamas, 4 bars of soap, 4 bottles of baby bath wash, 3 bottles of baby shampoo, 25 tubes of toothpaste and 49 toothbrushes! All items were delivered to the local Battered Women's Shelter and were greatly appreciated. Your support made it possible for our girls to meet the needs of a very special group in our local community. We couldn't have done it without you! *Your GA's*



Goal: To help our GAs raise money for the Lottie Moon Missions Offering and the Global Missions Offering

When: Wednesday, December 3rd – Sunday, December 21st

Where: the "Post Office" in Adult I (look for the big mailbox)

How: Bring vour Christmas cards for College Park members to our post office with a donation for the amount that you would have spent on USPS postage. Make checks payable to CPBC and designate Lottie Moon or Global Missions. Our GAs will sort them and have them available for pick up at your convenience.

> International Missions and Global Missions Offering

> > Our Goal: \$25,000.00

 Received to Date:

 Lottie Moon
 \$3,050.50

 CBF Global
 \$387.50

 \$3,438.00

FAMILY MINISTRY

Children's Sunday

December 7, during Morning Worship

Our children will be leading us in worship on Sunday, December 7. This "Children's Sunday" will feature all the various ages of our preschool and children's ministry. Don't miss this wonderful service of worship as we begin the season of advent with this powerful service of hope!

Youth Reindeer Hunt

December 13, 6:00-9:00 PM

That's right! It's that time of the year! It's time to don the ol' red and green, head over to Hanes Mall and find Santa's eight tiny cervidae (that's a fancy word for deer), all the while helping make this Christmas a special experience for our adopted family. Due to the fact that our church vehicles will already be in use, we will all drive ourselves to the mall. It might be a good idea to organize carpools with your friends/family who are not "vehicularly" challenged.

Parents' Night Out: December Edition December 13, 5:30-9:00 PM

If you need an evening to shop or have a special date, we have a fun night planned at church on December 13th from 5:30 - 9:00 for children, ages 0 - 6th grade. Sign up in the church office by December 11!

Youth Ministry Council Meeting

December 14, 9:00 AM

December 14, 4:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Youth Ministry Council is coming up on the second Sunday of December. Please make sure to mark this on your calendar!

Family Ministry Team Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the FMT is coming up on the second Sunday of December. Please make sure to mark this on your calendar!

RECREATION MINISTRY

Hoops4Him Basketball games have begun!

December 6	10:15 AM	Senior Boys (at Calvary)
	12:30 PM	Girls (at Calvary)
	12:30 PM	Intermediate Boys (at St. John's)
December 13	10:00 AM	Junior Co-Ed (at Mt. Tabor UMC)
	11:30 AM	Senior Boys (at Calvary)
	12:30 PM	Intermediate Boys (at St. John's)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

College Parkers

Thursday, December 18, 11:30 a.m.



CRISIS CON[†]ROL MINISTRY *Gift for December:* Potato Flakes

Collected last month at CPBC: 129 rolls of toilet tissue 10 cans of tuna 20 various cans of food

Gracious notes of appreciation have been received and posted on the bulletin board from the cast and crew of *"The 5th Quarter"* and from Vernon & Norma Howard.

<u>IN THE</u> HOSPITAL

Our prayers and support are offered to the following members of our church family who are, or have been in the hospital in the last two weeks:

> *Virgil Jessup Melba Jones Wayne Lewis*



since August 2002

Ramon E. Smith, Scnior Pastor Jeff Allen, Assoc. Pastor/ Students & Families Mary Keltner, Assoc. Pastor/Music & Education Jason Cogdill, Minister of Senior Adults & Congregational Care Charles D. Edwards, Pastor Emeritus

> COLLEGE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH Vinston-Salem, NC 27106 Phone 336-768-5870 Winston-Salem, NC 27106 Phone 336-768-5870 Phone 336-768-5870

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STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

Worship Nursery Workers

- December 7 Rachel Eller
- Ruby Warren Sheryl Burnett Sally & Van Crotts Becky Haney

December 14 Beth Huff Kelsey Phillips Bernice Hudspeth Lori Cogdill Marla Andrews Pat Blackwell

December 7

John Vogler Jim Pernell

December 14 Dennis Palmer Chuck Barbee

Properties Committee

December 7 Mitch Edmonds December 14 Gary Elkins

Information Center for December Bob Baker

Greeters

Trudy Elkins

Deacon of the Week

Dec. 7 - Dec. 13 Robert Huff Dec. 14 - Dec. 20 Charlie Jones

Wednesday, December 10

Spaghetti Tossed Salad Breadstick Chocolate Sheet Cake

Wednesday, December 17

Fried Chicken Baked Potato Casserole Green Beans Yeast Roll Lemon Pie

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP THRU NOV. 30

 Budget Requirement To Date
 \$751,340.64

 Budget Receipts To Date (91.57%)
 \$688,006.74

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS				
NOVEMBER 23				
Sunday School	270			
Morning Worship	274			
Brookridge	52			
L.I.F.E. Worship	N/A			
NOVEMBER 30				
Sunday School	230			
Morning Worship	293			
Brookridge	45			
L.I.F.E. Worship	27			

Mission Giving Plan Choices

College Park members have the option once per year of choosing from 3 giving plans for your budget gifts. If you have previously made a giving choice, it will remain in effect until you change it by filling out a new form. If you have not previously chosen a plan or wish to make a new choice for 2009, you will need to do so by December 31, 2008.

Forms for making your choice are available on the table in the Information Lobby on the lower level. If your plan choice is to remain the same, please do not fill out a new form.

2009 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2009 are now available in your Sunday School classrooms. Please pick them up now, but continue to use your current envelopes through the end of this year as some envelope numbers do change at year-end. Those who are not enrolled in Sunday School may find their envelopes on the table in the Information Lobby on the lower level.