VOLUME XLVII | DECEMBER 11, 2013 | NO. 50

Paying Attention to Advent Poetry

There is something about Advent and Christmastime that brings out the poet in me. I believe that's because there is very little that is subtle about Christmas in our culture. Christmas is big and bold and everywhere. This doesn't bother me so much as it makes me pause. I pause because our greatest teachable moments are most commonly intuitive, subconscious, and metaphorical. Men and women, created in the image of God, pass wisdom on from generation to generation through quiet truths and beautiful stories. Our wisest friends, our friends most attuned to God's movement in their lives, are those who pay attention to symbols around them which point to God.

That is why I like Advent and Christmas poetry. The metaphorical lenses they provide give us a new way to encounter the narrative of our faith. And in this encounter, if we pay attention, we can grown in faith and wisdom. Recently I came across a poem by the 19th century English poet George MacDonald. The poem is called *That Holy Thing*:

They all were looking for a king To slay their foes and lift them high: Thou cam'st, a little baby thing That made a woman cry.

O Son of Man, to right my lot Naught but Thy presence can avail; Yet on the road Thy wheels are not, Nor on the sea Thy sail!

My how or when Thou wilt not heed, But come down Thine own secret stair, That Thou mayst answer all my need— Yea, every bygone prayer.

I hope you find the poem as lovely and powerful as I do. No, it is not all tinselly. It is not flashy. But, my goodness, isn't it profound? Three stanzas that depict for us the depth of God's love as the Christ-child descends the heavenly stair to sense our needs and hear our prayers.

Advent is a great deal like this too. It is not flashy or pretentious. But it is profound. If we offer it our patience and devotion, it is a powerful teacher through its intuitions, metaphors and quiet confidence that Christ will come and grace will reign.

On Sunday, December 15, our worship will concern itself with the Advent message of glory and mystery as our choirs lead us in song, meditation, and celebration. Note that we will begin our early worship service at 8:00 a.m. the next two Sundays (9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services are not affected). We hope you will read the words of the anthems and responses the choirs sing. In these words is the poetry of Advent and Christmas. And while it will not be gaudy or showy, it will be rich with meaning as we encounter the great God-given promise of a kingdom come. We'll hear it once again in the sacred texts and songs we'll share. And in sharing these songs we might become richer in faith and more wise in our capacity to discern the movement of God in our lives and in our world.

May Advent grace abound,

Christopher Edmonston

Worship Sunday, December 15, the Third Sunday of Advent, at 8:00*, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*Note that our first service will begin at 8:00 a.m. this week and next week.

Homily: News Too Good Not to Sing About It

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-6; Isaiah 35:1-6

Hymns: Christ Is Coming! I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Midweek Worship: Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, December 12, 12:10 p.m. Advent Schedule on page 6

> Pastor-On-Call Telephone Number: 919-605-4593

Don't forget to wear your nametag!

Thank you for being considerate of our neighbors by parking only in designated and legal spaces. Do not park in unsafe locations – too close to corners or driveways. To avoid parking concerns, ride the shuttle. Shuttle service begins at 8:45 a.m. every Sunday. Park at Carolina Place on Glenwood Avenue (near the Oberlin Road intersection) and ride the shuttle to church. Shuttles run continuously, so the wait is usually no more than 8-10 minutes.

WMPC is a reference to White Memorial Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP EMBRACE SERVE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers and Christian Concerns to:

Elaine and Steve Jones and Megan on the death of Steve's stepfather, James Foster Bullock, November 7; Jane and Bill Ed Kidd and Anne Rowland on the death of Jane's sister, Ruth L. Strickland, November 27; Flo and Dan Durway on the death of Dan's mother, Catherine Durway, December 3; Nancy Locker Van Pelt and Craig Van Pelt on the death of Nancy's mother, Wilma Locker, December 3.

Congratulations to:

Salli and Randy Worth on the birth of grandchild Merrill Fearrington

Worth, November 14, to Shannon and Bryce Worth.

New Presbyterians:

Julian Edward Marsh, born November 14, child of Jennifer and Greg Marsh; Jackson Graham Kelly, born November 22, child of Julie and Brad Kelly; Thomas James Sevier, born December 7, child of Anna and Tommy Sevier; Gary Wade Jackson, born December 7, child of Keely and Daniel Jackson

Baptisms - December 8:

Harper Elaine Eves, child of Katie and Ryan Eves.

Marriage:

Courtney Griffin Williams and Adam Nicholas Olls, December 7, WMPC.

Hospitals (* = discharged):

Rex: Becky Patter son, Randy Partin, Grover Smith, *Harry White; WakeMed: *Steve Chiles; Rex Rehab: Emmie Boone; Mayview: Linda Habian; Rosewood at the Cypress: Joe Hardison; Crabtree Valley Rehab: Virginia Huntley.

HELP WANTED, SERVICE AND MISSION

Reconciliation Event

Dr. Salim Munayer, a Palestinian Christian leader for reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis, will speak in C200 at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, December 11. Sponsored by the Middle East Peace and Justice Committee, Dr. Munayer will describe the present dilemma and the efforts of an organization known as Musalaha to bring a message of peace, justice and love to that troubled region.

Russia Sewing Group

The Russia Sewing Group will continue to piece quilt tops on Monday, December 16, from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in C200. If you sew, you're invited to come, bringing along your sewing machine and basic tools, including a 1/4" presser foot, to sew more quilts for beds at Rodnik.

In January, the group will deviate from its normal schedule of third Mondays of each month and meet on the fourth Monday, January 27. Contact Ellen Bennett at <u>ellenben@mindspring.com</u> for details.

Recycle Your Eyeglasses

Please donate eyeglasses (prescription, readers, sunglasses, cases). First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh will share the eyeglasses during an upcoming Medical Mission Trip to Bolivia. A collection box is in the Witherspoon lobby.

Food Needed

Remember that food is needed in our local pantries. When shopping, pick up a couple of extra cans to place in the crate in the Connector. Canned meat/pasta, canned meat, and canned fruit are always needed.

Community Bulletin Board

The community bulletin board at whitememorial.org/communityBB is your best stop for details with events of the ministries and agencies WMPC supports. If you would like to have event information posted, send it to Gloria Johnson.

January 1 and 8 newsletters deadline: Tuesday noon, December 17.

Good Coffee for a Good Cause

The Presbyterian Coffee Project offers a special link between congregations and communities around the world. WMPC now reaches out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings we give, but with the goods and products we purchase. Buying fair trade through the Presbyterian Coffee Project ensures that more money reaches the hardworking farmers who grow the products. A portion of sales is received by the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s "Small Farmers Fund" and are donated to The Road to Life Yard-Papaye, an integrated sustainable agricultural development program in Haiti which includes organic farming and Morienga Trees through MPP -Mouvman Payizan Papay.

Fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil and other products are for sale at most Wednesdays Together Dinners and First Wednesday Spaghetti Suppers from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Pickard Hall. For details or to place an order, contact Carol Gates at gate7013@bellsouth.net.

OFFICER NOMINATION FORM

In March or April 2014, you will be asked to vote for a slate of officers to serve a three-year term in leadership, planning, and care for the church. Please give prayerful consideration to placing a church member into nomination for the office of Elder or Deacon.

OFFICERS AT WHITE MEMORIAL ARE EXPECTED TO SERVE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Participate in Officer Training Classes (Wednesday nights in September)
- Begin service next October
- Serve on a Sessional or Diaconate committee
- Attend monthly meetings and called meetings to the best of one's ability
- Act as commissioner to a Presbytery meeting as available (elders only)
- Serve communion as available and as needed (elders only)
- Provide pastoral and spiritual care for congregation
- Share in leadership of the annual Stewardship Campaign
- Communicate pastoral concerns and helpful suggestions to the pastors in a timely manner
- Participate in visitation, ushering and serve as Treasurer's Assistant (*deacons only*)

TO HELP YOU JUDGE THIS PERSON'S QUALIFICATIONS AS A CANDIDATE FOR ELDER OR DEACON, PLEASE CONSIDER SUCH AREAS AS THE FOLLOWING:

PARTICIPATION IN CHURCH LIFE

- Christian commitment
- Attendance at public worship
- Participation in church activities (church school, fellowship groups, etc.)
- Offices held
- Services rendered

CHRISTIAN LIVING IN DAILY LIFE

- Within the family
- At work
- In the community

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND SKILLS

- Cooperativeness
- Willingness to learn
- Ability to follow through on assignments/commitments
- Openness to new ideas
- Maturity of judgment

All recommendations must be received by <u>January 22, 2014</u>. The nomination form on page 4 may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to the church office marked:

White Memorial Presbyterian Church Attn: Officer Nomination Committee 1704 Oberlin Road Raleigh, NC 27608



Person recommended: ______

For Elder _____ For Deacon _____

The Presbyterian *Book of Order* states the "Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation..."

"The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ." They shall "minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless..."

How long has this person been a member of WMPC? _____

Has this person been an elder/deacon of WMPC or governing officer of another church	? _
If so, where?	

Why do you recommend this person for the office of elder or deacon?

In what ways has this person demonstrated involvement in the ministries of WMPC?

To the best of your knowledge, does this person practice sound theology and accept the theology of the Presbyterian Church?

How has this person demonstrated Christian commitment outside the church?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Advent Hymn Study

The hymns of Christmas refocus our spirits and remind us of the holiness and mystery of God's incarnation. This Advent study explains the history behind some of our favorite carols and helps us encounter the rich wording anew. Focusing on the ways in which words and music can speak to the core of our experiences, we will spend time in reflection, conversation, and simple enjoyment of these beloved hymns. No musical ability is required. Join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, December 15 and 22, in C204. Each week we are studying a different hymn.

- Dec. 15: O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Dec. 22: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Confirmation Workshop

A Confirmation class lunch and workshop on Statements of Faith will be held Sunday, December 15, from 12:15 -1:15 p.m. Come to C100—and don't forget your orange confirmation notebook and \$5 for lunch catered by Moe's!

Christmas Eve Bell Service x 3

New this year is a third Bell Service on Christmas Eve! Join in the joyous ringing of bells at one of our three Bell Services at 3:30, 4:30, and 5:30 p.m. on December 24! Bring a bell to accompany the singing of carols. Listen to the anthems of children's choirs, hear the Christmas story and worship with joy! Nursery care is not provided.

First - Fifth Grade Skating Party

Children in first through fifth grades are invited to our church's skating party at Jellybeans at 1120 Buck Jones Road on Saturday, January 11, from 10:00 a.m. – noon. Admission is \$3, including regular skate rental; rollerblade rental is \$1. Children might also want to bring money for game machines and refreshments. Parents are welcome to leave or to stay and skate for the same price. No reservations are necessary. Call Lynn Springfield at 919-834-3425, ext. 232, with questions.



December 15

-Childcare:

This service is best appreciated by children four years old or older. A nursery is provided for younger children beginning at 6:00 p.m.

From 5:00–6:00 p.m.:

Come for spaghetti supper with two serving lines in Geneva Hall for quick service. Cost is \$5.

At 6:30 p.m.:

Joy Gift Service in the sanctuary

- ★ Children four years old through fifth grades decorate the tree with ornaments.
- **★** Ornaments are distributed during the service as children come forward to decorate the tree.
- ★ After the service, the tree will be donated to Helping Hands Ministry.
- * All children are invited to bring an unwrapped toy, book, game or canned food to be placed at the tree for families in need.

ADVENT EVENTS



WEEK II: DECEMBER 8-14

Wed., Dec 11:	5:15 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner,
	Geneva Hall (with reservations)
	6:30 p.m. Midweek Worship, Sanctuary*
Thu., Dec 12:	12:10 p.m. Midweek Worship, Sanctuary* (lunch to follow)

WEEK III: DECEMBER 15-21

Sunday, Dec 15:	8:00, 9:30, 11:00 Morning Worship				
	Seasonal Choirs and Instrumentalists present:				
	Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi				
	8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Turkey Dinner Collection				
	5:00 p.m. Spaghetti Supper				
	6:30 p.m. Joy Gift Service, Sanctuary*				
Wed., Dec 18:	5:15 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner,				
	Geneva Hall (with reservations)				
	6:30 p.m. Midweek Worship, Sanctuary*				
Thu., Dec 19:	12:10 p.m. Midweek Worship, Sanctuary* (lunch to follow)				

For a complete Advent and Christmas calendar, go to <u>whitememorial.org/advent</u> or see the November 27 newsletter.



POINSETTIA MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA

Contributions in memory of a loved one or in honor of a family member, friend, or member of

the church family are welcomed. Contributions may be for any amount; suggested gift is \$20 or more.

All those honored or memorialized will be listed in the bulletin inserts for the

December 22 services and the Christmas Eve services at 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.

The poinsettias will stay at the church through Christmas and then, whenever possible, be delivered to homebound members or members in nursing homes.

Contributions will go into a fund used for all decorations in the sanctuary and chapel for Advent and Christmas and to fund other Advent activities. Contributions received in excess of the cost for Advent and Christmas flowers, greenery, and related events will be used to supply flowers on other Sundays during the year.

Use the form below to list who is being memorialized or honored and who is making the gift. All requests must be in the church office by noon on Monday, December 16. Send your contribution to Rebecca Turner, and call her at 919-834-3425, ext. 222, with questions.

Poinsettia Memorials and Honoraria Please Print. Deadline: Noon on Monday, December 16

Name of Donor: _			Phone:
Given:	in honor of	or	in memory of (no titles, please — first and last names only)
(Name)			
(Name)			
Amount of donatio	n:		

Mail to the attention of Rebecca Turner, WMPC, 1704 Oberlin Road, Raleigh NC 27608

WMPC Women's Retreat





Leslie Klingensmith, Speaker

Leslie Klingensmith has been the Pastor of St. Matthew Presbyterian Church in Silver Spring, MD, since March 2002. She has a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts from University of Oklahoma, an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and a D. Min. from Columbia Theological Seminary. Leslie is interested in interfaith collaboration, inclusive theology, and social justice. Her hobbies include reading, biking, cooking, writing, watching sports, traveling and hanging out with her family. She is an occasional book reviewer for *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Leslie is married to Ed Taylor, mother of Samuel (10) and Greer (7), but around here her biggest claim to fame is being the twin sister of WMPC's Erin Duffy and aunt to Maggie, Embree and Beatrice.

An added bonus at the retreat this year: Leslie and Erin will lead a book review as one of our electives on Saturday afternoon. The book is *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. You can find a copy at a local library, or you may purchase the book at Quail Ridge Bookstore.

Beth Williams, Music Worship Leader

Beth G. Williams is a Charlotte, NC, resident. She graduated from Furman University with a B.A. in Music and received her Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Kentucky, where she served as a teaching assistant. After graduate school, Beth served as director of youth ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte for 10 years. She has keynoted and led music at church and presbytery retreats around the Southeast. She believes that music can and should be an integral part in creating, building, and enriching community. Beth is married to Doug, and they have two children, Addie (9) and Finn (7). Beth has released her first solo album, *Songs for the Searching*.





Susan Roberts, Accompanist

Susan Roberts has been a member of White Memorial Presbyterian Church for 14 years and currently works on the WMPC staff as the Administrative Assistant for Music and Congregational Ministries. She is a native of Wilmington, NC, and lived in a variety of places before settling in Raleigh in 1998. At WMPC, she has sung in choirs, taught the single adult church school class for nine years, is involved with Presbyterian Women, is an active Stephen Minister and currently serves as a co-facilitator for Divorce Recovery. Susan's daughter, Madeleine, is a sophomore at Davidson College.



SAVE THE DATES! 2014 YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

In addition to what parents pay, our middle and high school youth conference and mission trips cost the church over \$38,000 <u>each year</u>. These trips include Montreat Conference, Passport Mission Trip, Appalachia Service Project (ASP), and the Rising Ninth Grade Mission Trip. To offset these costs, our youth raise money every year through the Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser, and/or Trash and Treasure Fundraiser, and the Mission Shares Fundraiser.



Mission

Shares

DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 7 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pickard Hall

Ticket Sales: February 8-28

Join us for the second bi-annual Dinner and a Silent Auction Youth Fundraiser! Last year's event raised <u>more than \$12,000</u> to help fund our youth trips. Watch for more information at the first of the year!

MISSION SHARES YOUTH FUNDRAISER

February 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23 (Shares are sold after worship at the Point and Carol Copeland Courtyard)

Not able to join us for the Dinner and Silent Auction, but would like to contribute? Support our youth by buying a mission share, and during the summer you will receive a postcard from a youth who is on a mission trip, reporting to you the impact you have made through supporting Youth Missions.

YOUR ATTENTION Please

Holiday Blues? Lonely?

Need someone to listen to your story? A Stephen Minister may be just the right person for you. Stephen Ministers are trained lay people who come alongside those who are going through a difficult time. If you need a listening, compassionate ear, please call Lisa Hebacker, 834-3425, ext. 208.

Health Ministries

The mission of WMPC's Health Ministries Committee is to offer care and compassion to those who struggle with health and wholeness in a way that encourages and affirms them in their faith. The month of December brings the opportunity for us to focus on AIDS awareness. Please pray for all those who are affected by this disease, and consider supporting local awareness efforts.

Inclement Weather Policy

We seek to have the church sanctuary open for worship every Sunday. However, if driving conditions or walking is hazardous, do not come to church. Our commitment is to have a pastor at church for worship each Sunday morning, if possible, but we are not committing to have ushers present, walks shoveled, parking lots cleared, or to operate any other programs. We will keep our Inclement Weather voicemail up to date unless telephones are not operating. To access the Weather Box, call 919-834-3425, ext. 315. We also seek to keep our church website up to date and to notify local TV stations. Our deacons have organized an Inclement Weather Response Team to shovel snow and assist in other ways. To volunteer for that effort, contact Gary Fulton at 919-834-3425, ext. 201.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 15 (Matthew 11:2-6; Isaiah 35:1-6)

The Gloria - Glory & Mystery of Advent - All Services (first service at 8:00 a.m.)

- 8:00 a.m. Turkey Collection (Portico) 8:30 a.m. - Christmas Share Tables (Connector)
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Group Lunch (C100)
- 5:00 p.m. Joy Gift Spaghetti Dinner (Geneva/Pickard)
- 6:30 p.m. Joy Gift Worship Service (Sanctuary); Nursery for Joy Gift Worship (L102-103)

Monday, December 16 (Ps. 67; Zech. 1:7-17; Rev. 3:7-13; Matt. 24:15-31)

- 9:30 a.m. Toddler Open Gym (Pickard); Russia Sewing Group (C200)
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee (S300)
- 6:45 p.m. Disciple 3-Johnson (C301)
- 7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (C100)

Tuesday, December 17 (Ps. 94; Zech. 2:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Matt. 24:32-44)

- 7:00 a.m. Women's/Men's Breakfast/Study (K100/Geneva)
- 8:00 a.m. Keenagers to WRAL Golden Age Breakfast (Off Site)
- 8:45 a.m. CTSG Prayer Group (Chapel)
- 9:30 a.m. Fit after Fifty (Pickard); Career Transition Support Group (C200)
- 5:30 p.m. Middle East Peace and Justice Committee (C204)
 - 6:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (W400)
- 6:30 p.m. Middle School Christmas Party (C100)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel/Seasonal Choir (S300)

Wednesday, December 18 (Ps. 150; Gen. 3:8-15; Rev. 12:1-10; John 3:16-21)

- 6:45 p.m. High School Prayer Breakfast (Off Site)
- 7:30 a.m. Implementation Team (W400)
- 8:00 a.m. Clothing Closet (W100)
- 10:00 a.m. Archives Committee (W400)
- 11:15 a.m. Weekday School Christmas Chapel Service (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 p.m. Cherub Choir (L309); Carol Choir (S300); Joyful Noise Choir (L304)
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner (Pickard)
- 6:00 p.m. StepUp Job Training (C304); Youth Ministry Committee (C301)
- 6:00 p.m. Education and Nurture Committee (C200)
- 6:15 p.m. Nursery for Advent Worship (L102)
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Education Committee (C204); Advent Worship (Sanctuary)
- 6:45 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study (K300)
- 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon (C100)

Thursday, December 19 (Ps. 122; Zeph. 3:14-20; Titus 1:1-16; Luke 1:1-15)

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School: Jump into the Holidays Camp (L309A-B) 9:00 a.m. - Weekday School: Treats and Treasures Camp (L311)
- 9.00 a.m. Weekday School. Heats and Heasules Camp (L511)
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School: Visions of Sugarplums Camp (L300-301)
- 10:00 a.m. Disciple-Christian Believer (K301)
- Noon Nursery for Advent Worship (L102-103)
- 12:10 p.m. Advent Worship (Sanctuary) followed by Advent Lunch (Geneva)
- 6:00 p.m. Weight Watchers (W400)
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary/Seasonal Choir (S300); Webelo Scouts (K303-308)

Friday, December 20 (Ps. 33; 1 Sam. 2:1b-10; Titus 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-38)

- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School: Jump into the Holidays Camp (L309A-B)
- 9:00 a.m. Weekday School: Treats and Treasures Camp (L311)
- 9:30 a.m. Fit after Fifty (Pickard)
- 8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous (C100)

Saturday, December 21 (Ps. 50; 2 Sam. 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8a; Luke 1:39-56)

- 8:30 a.m. Church School Setup (L309A, L310-311)
- 9:00 a.m. Advent Wreath Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols Instrumental Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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Major Mission for Haiti and Russia Near but Short of Goal

The 2013 Major Mission campaign at White Memorial is near the end, but we need your help to bring it to a successful conclusion.

We are happy to report significant progress towards our 2013 goal of raising \$100,000 for our two Major Mission projects, the construction of module 1 of the high school in the Terre Noire community in Haiti and the completion of the Youth and Conference Center for Rodnik for a year-round ministry, including mission conferences and worship services. As of December 9, we have received 236 pledges totaling \$98,530. We are grateful to all who have helped us get so very close to reaching our goal! We still need support to finish these special mission projects. We ask for your help with one final push to reach our goal! It is an opportunity to make a real difference where our help is greatly needed.

Please consider a pledge either online at <u>whitememorial.org/major-mission</u> or through the church office. Thank you for your support in this important campaign to help the youth in Haiti and Russia!

