



CELEBRATE
Christmas
At May Memorial Baptist Church

Newsletter 11-30-2020

Reaching...Teaching...Touching ...in the Heart of Powhatan

3922 Old Buckingham Road

In the heart of the Courthouse Village (804) 598-3098

From the Pastor...Beginning with Comfort

Yesterday in Sunday School we began considering how each of the Gospel writers begin the story of the Good News of Jesus. Mark, we learned yesterday, skips the normal birth narrative altogether. The only birth that is described in Mark's Gospel is the watery birth of baptism. Matthew, Luke, and John also have their different approaches to the beginning of the story of Jesus.

When George Frederick Handel begins his telling of the "Messiah" story, he also begins the story in a unique way. After the instrumental introduction, Handel has a tenor step forward and slowly, clearly sing Isaiah 40.

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned:
for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

The tenor doesn't rush through this verse, he dwells pointedly on that first word. **Comfort**. Before the music allows us to move on, we hear the word comfort no fewer than six times.

Our culture, given the choice, would start and end it with the **Hallelujah Chorus** (Handel does neither), because we always want to skip to Hallelujahs. But Handel and the Church understand what God's people often need, especially when we're in exile, is comfort.

We are in need of comfort these days, for so much of what we're experiencing is so uncomfortable. And on the Second Sunday in Advent that is exactly what the prophet brings to us:

A God who offers comfort.
A shepherd who tends and feeds his flock.
A shepherd who will gather his lambs into his arms.
And will place them on his lap.
And will gently guide us.

Worship will be online this Sunday, but join in the experience to find how God offers comfort to those who are in the un-comfortable deserts of exile and loss.



Advent and Christmas for the May Memorial Family

Advent Hospitality: A Gift from the Home... (of name)
November 30 – December 25

Consisting of artwork, music, Christmas symbols and decorations, and readings, these gifts will come from members of the May Memorial family and will be sent out each morning during Advent.

Sunday, December 20

YouTube Premiere Children's Christmas Pageant

The pageant will premiere on YouTube and in our sanctuary (video presentation) at 3:00. The sanctuary premiere is offered for those who do not have access to YouTube, although anyone can attend.

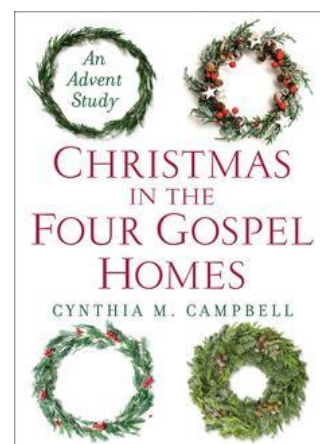
Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

11:00 a.m., YouTube Premiere Service in the MMBC Sanctuary, made available especially for those without a computer or access to YouTube, although anyone can attend.

4:00 p.m., MMBC Christmas Eve Worship on YouTube Premiere. This will be an online worship service much like our worship services while in early pandemic weeks.

Join Us For Sunday School on Zoom

During the four Sundays of Advent this year, November 29 through December 20, travel with the Zoom Sunday School to some 'houses' decorated quite differently for the birth of Jesus—the four "Gospel homes" of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John! Bob Kruschwitz and Juston Sanudo will be team teaching the study. Our guide will be Cynthia M. Campbell, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2019). Copies of this book are available in the church office and from online booksellers. "The purpose of our journey is to experience what Christmas means from [each Gospel's] perspective and how Christmas is celebrated there," Campbell writes. Each week's study features a house drawing by architect Kevin Burns, who offers his own interpretation of how each Gospel welcomes us to "reflect on the mystery of Jesus, Son of God, born of Mary." Please join in the Zoom Sunday School class each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m., or view it afterwards online through the May Memorial YouTube channel.



To join by phone about 9:15: Call (312) 626-6799 Enter: 871 7487 0259

Connecting to Each Other...Fellowship



Bible Study on Zoom - Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799
Enter this code: 286 978 612

Kingdom Kids Zoom Meeting

Every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. we meet online for our Kingdom Kids program and fun!

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799
Enter the meeting code: 277 032 1474



JESSE TREE DEVOTIONAL



Jesse Tree Devotional

If you need a copy of the devotional which has all the information for making the Jesse Tree, you may contact Ashley Edwards by calling her at (804) 586-0652.

Handbell Choir and Adult Choir Ensemble Rehearsals

Will resume after the New Year.



Connecting to the World...Missions

Christmas Mission Project



Standing Rock Indian Reservation—This year before Christmas we will be joining with Baptists across Virginia collecting gifts cards for children in the Cannon Ball on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota. WMU of Virginia staff (who are at Standing Rock) will shop for each child using the gift cards so the children there will receive what they need this Christmas. Please bring gift cards on our **collection date of December 13 during Worship** from Dollar Tree, Amazon, Walmart or Target. While any amount is appreciated, a \$25 gift card will sponsor one individual child at Standing Rock.

Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry team will meet at the Powhatan Food Pantry on Saturday, December 19 at 9:30 a.m.





Rachael Circle Zoom Meeting
 All Ladies are invited to the Zoom meeting on Tuesday, December 8 at 12:00 noon.

The final collection for the Richmond Pregnancy Resource Center.
 Thank you everyone!

To Join By Phone: Dial: 312 626 6799
 Enter Meeting ID: 843 0037 0744

November/December Birthdays



30 - Ashley Osborne
 1 - Candy Wills
 7 - Ray Crump
 7 - Karen Hay
 8 - Jeanan Krueger
 16 - Nancy Gillespie

18-Phyllis Anderson
 18- Laura Edwards
 19- Dawana Sheppard
 19- Ken Jamerson
 22- Robin Mead
 22-Lisa O'Donnell

Financial Information

Our Gifts to our Lord

Week of November 29, 2020

Regular Offering	\$ 4,732.50
Building Fund	240.00
Special Offering	40.00
Total	\$ 5,012.50

May Memorial's Prayer List 11/30/20

CHURCH FAMILY:

Barbara Barden
Susie Brock
Joann Cole
Bob Cosby
Bob Cox
Snead DeNoon
Lee Duncan
Nick Elam
Ester Fitch and Family
Bea Gallier
Rick Gallier
Bill Ketron
Bernice Koelzer
Paul Lindsey
Fran O'Donnell
Jim Pinkley
Shirley Stephens
David&Susan
Terry
Nancy Wilkinson
Earl Worsham
Janice Worsham

MILITARY:

Danny Myers, Brent Templeton, Quint Sutton, David Brizendine, Jeremiah Clift, Nelson Sutton, Justin Donnavon, Austin, Breeden, Caleb Hammer, Kris Curtis, Adam and Hunter Mitchell

HOMEBOUND PRAYER AND CONTACT LIST:

- Janice and Earl Worsham, Auburn Hill Senior Living, 5800 Harbour Ln, Midlothian, VA 23112
- Audrey Johnston, 3901 S. Fairway Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139
- Audrey Mann, The Laurels of Willow Oaks, 11611 Robious Road, Midlothian, 23113
- Jim Pinkley, Currently with Billy and Marlis Kruschwitz
- Jean Hall, 1748 Old Powhatan Estates

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Estelle Davis, Debbie Elam's mother
Lacie Baggett
Libby Gregg, daughter-in-law of Carol Gregg
Stuart Yeorge
Ben Spoon, Juli Spoon's son-in-law
Matthew Berger, friend of Joy & Juston Sanudo
Clyde Martin, brother of Esther Fitch
Jeff Crews, Susie Brock's brother-in-law
Sheri Sadie, Nancy Flower's Daughter
Sharon Baltimore, friend of the Bradbury's
Bill Casper, Bill Karnolt's brother-in-law
Justin Yancey, Grandson of Irma Alvis
Stephanie Hay, Karen and Ray's daughter-in-law
Janie Dean
Phyllis Lester, Ed Utt's sister
Shawn Neugent, friend of the Sheltons
Lennox Family
Helen Fitzgerald, friend of Diana and B.J. Smith
Chloe, granddaughter of Amy&Bill Karnolt
Nurses, Erin and Melissa, relatives of the Karnolt's
Logan Cook, grandson of Wilford and Linda Poore.
Pam Polk Mottley, Ed Mottley's sister
Randy Kope, grandson of Les and Dianne Miller
Brian Sullivan, nephew of Mike & Bernice Koelzer
Mary, Annie Sparrow's Aunt
Mary Ann David, Debbie Elam's sister-in-law
Teresa Fields
Brenden McMullan, the Cox's grandson
Patricia Vermillion, Jon Flower's sister
Emily, Gene & Sandy Parker's daughter
Chuck Karnolt
Kathy Kuhn, friend of Vicki and Bob Kruschwitz
Davin Ericson, friend of the Cox's
Stephanie Prentice, Nancy Flower's granddaughter
Stuart Howard and Bre
Sue Ellen Hresan, Nancy Richard's sister
Fred Boatwright, Amy Potter's father
Helen Dean
Mike Davidson
Family of Frances Tilman, Maryvel Firda's mother
Family of Matt Bennett
Family of Lee Clay
Randy Blackwell

Message from the Regathering Team

Saturday, November 28

May Memorial Family,

Because a member of the May Memorial Family (and increasing members of the Powhatan community) have tested positive for COVID 19, the Regathering Team has made the decision to go “online only” for at least two weeks.

It is the Regathering Team’s goal to keep our church community safe, and we believe this is the responsible step in order keep each other as safe as possible.

Those who have been in close contact with the member will be contacted.

Please pray for those in our community who are suffering from this illness.

You will receive an email link this evening for an online worship service that will premiere on YouTube tomorrow morning.
