



The Williams Bell

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church
4700 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216-2845

Vol. 57

November/December 2019

No. 11/12

Let's Talk about Advent!

So, tell me again, what is Advent? This liturgical season, a most important one, has an identity problem. A big part of this identity problem lies in the fact that its much larger sibling, Christmas, overshadows it. Stores from Macy's to Target and on to Walmart are already decorated for this behemoth. Advent, and the celebration of this season, just gets in the way of the Christmas machine. In fact, Christmas simply runs over and crushes Advent before it has a chance to get moving.

Let's get back to the question of "what is Advent?" Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means arrival. Jerome, a doctor of the church, who lived in the 4th century and translated the bible into Latin used *adventus*, as the translation of the ancient Greek word, "*Parousia*". Now, this word which is found in the New Testament referred to the Second Coming of Christ. Advent, when it was first celebrated, was a period of preparation for Jesus' second arrival. In time, however, the remembrance of his first arrival, his birth, began to take precedence over the approaching second coming. And now, we just spend the better part of two months "getting ready for Christmas" while wearing ourselves out and into a frenzy. Sigh!

How can we, as a church and as a people, reclaim Advent? How can we allow it to speak to and calm our driven souls, rather than being just one more thing we "have to do?" A careful, prayerful and intentional Advent season tends to have a significant impact on our celebration of Christmas. When we observe Advent, some pre-Christmas activities are often seen in a different light becoming less important and even non-essential. Advent can help us slow down and pace ourselves. A slower pace makes us more aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit, opening our eyes to that which is Holy around us.

In the early church and, to this day, in the Greek Orthodox Church, Advent began on November 15, 40 days before Christmas. This season, also called the Nativity Fast, was much like Lent, a season of dedication to prayer and repentance in which Christians prepared themselves for Christ's Second

Coming. In an interesting twist, the days of Advent were marked as beginning at sundown rather than with the rising of the sun. Therefore, first day of Advent for Orthodox churches, is sundown on November 14, rather than sunrise on the 15th.

For us Presbyterians, Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. In the days leading up to December 1st, why not consider marking our days as our Greek Orthodox brothers and sisters? As we wind down from a hectic and busy day, pray for the grace to slow down, to pay attention, and listen to Christ in the world and in your heart. Pray for God to speak to you in your dreams granting you vision and discernment of the holy in your midst. Pray to see Christ being born in and around you. Pray for a leisurely Advent.

John-Nelson Pope

Children's Hope Alliance is the combination of Barium Springs and Grandfather Home for Children joining forces to serve children and families throughout North Carolina. This organization provides a safe, healing journey for hurting children and families,

This Christmas Season we will be supporting these children with donations of New Hygiene Items.

We will have boxes in the narthex starting in November 3rd through December 8th.

New Hygiene Items

mouthwash (alcohol free)
dental floss (waxed only please)
deodorant (both boys & girls)
hair spray for girls
hair gel for boys
tissues, band-aids, wet wipes
hand soap, hand sanitizer
combs, hair brushes
shampoo, conditioner
antibacterial wipes & hand sanitizer
toothpaste & toothbrushes (Adult - Soft)
curling irons or flat irons

Annual Advent Lunch will be held following worship on December 15th. Meat will be provided, please bring a side and/or dessert.

Fun and Fellowship

November meeting will be at Noon on Tuesday, November 12 in the Fellowship Hall. Fall Festival and Hot Dog Lunch event is planned – so start practicing your ring toss and putt-putt skills. If you would like to help, see Amy Auten.

December meeting will be Noon on December 10 at the home of Donna and David Stroupe 6210 McIlwaine Rd, Huntersville. Laura Stroupe will be providing a soup lunch.

Christmas Poinsettias

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church is offering poinsettias for purchase to be placed in the Sanctuary during Christmas. The flowers can be dedicated in honor or in memory of someone if you choose. Deadline is December 8th

The larger poinsettias are \$9.00 each.

The smaller poinsettias are \$6.00 each.

Orders Due by Sunday December 8th.

To place an order please use the below form and return with the payment to Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church 4700 Beatties Ford Road Charlotte, NC 28216.

Make checks payable to Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church and write *poinsettia* on the memo line.

Name : _____

Number of LARGE: _____

Number of SMALL: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Williams Bell Deadlines Our goal is to make the Bell available on the last Sunday of the month. In order to make that deadline please provide Jan/Feb Bell submissions by December 22nd.

Memorials Received In Memory of:

Sarah Puckett from Fleeta Windell
Mary Penninger from William and Debra Fox

November Birthdays



Nov 6 *Fred Hunter*
Nov 8 *Will Craig*

Nov 29 *Ted Auten*

December Birthdays



Dec 10 *Jean Fidler*

Dec 16 *Sarah Craig*

Dec 14 *Susie Dunn*

Dec 19 *Gary Jordan*

Dec 15 *Sally Leatherwood*

Dec 21 *Bette Burris*

Fellowship Hall Reservations – Remember to use the office desk calendar or email wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com to reserve the fellowship hall during the holiday season (or any time)

In the event of an emergency or a phone tree request please contact Pastor John, Cell 941.704.0561 or john-nelson.pope@montreat.edu

Prayer Request for:

Members and Friends...*Florence Alexander, Roy Baker, Andy Hassell, Janet Hubbard, Diane Kever, Nancy & Dickson Skipper, James Watson, and Rev. Phillip Williams.*

Members in the extended community ... *Lydia Pope.*

Those in military service

US Army –*Sam Caldwell, Justin Jackson* US Army Reserve – *Benjamin Glover*
US Coast Guard – *Matthew Baker*

Volunteers & Helpers for 2019

USHERS

November: Marilyn Earnhardt, Alex Leatherwood

December: Ty Leatherwood, Jon Leatherwood

COLLECTION TABULATORS

November: Bobbie Reid, Kevin Auten

December: Don Fisher, Mark Auten

COMMUNION SERVERS

November 3rd : Fred Hunter

December 22nd: Jon Leatherwood

January 5, 2020: Mark Auten

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Phone 704 392-8816

E-mail wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com

Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

Church Staff

John-Nelson Pope – Pastor

Billie McConnell – Music Director

Ted Auten – Custodian

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*Amy Auten – Editor Secretary*

*Wendy Leatherwood – Financial Secretary*