



December 16, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

*Do all the good you can; By all the means you can;
In all the ways you can; In all the places you can;
At all the times you can; To all the people you can;
As long as ever you can.
~ John Wesley (1703-1791) ~*

**This Sunday, the Kingswood Choir,
and the instrumental ensemble will present “Sing Christmas.”**



Ushers: Wayne Allred, Jake Boyd, Ross Cardwell, John Cox, Dan Eurey, Bill Foust, James Hoots, Greg Kiser & John Warren

Music: Madeline Griggs – Director, Sarah Butler – Organist, Debbie Pappalardo – Pianist

Sunday School Nursery: LuAnn Winfrey; next week – Mike & Pat Stone

Worship Nursery: Mary Kiger & Emma Couch; next week – Matthew & Jordan Winfrey

Promises: No Promises this Sunday; next week – Lisa Poe

Flowers: Greg & Allison Cardwell; next week – poinsettias will grace the church

Promises – The children will remain in the sanctuary with their families for the Christmas Cantata.

Worship Kits – There are inspiring worship enhancing activities available to all children as they enter the sanctuary. Please return the kits and all its contents at the end of the service.



Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:55 am	Welcome/Worship
	6:00 pm	Youth Gathering
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Wednesday		No Choir rehearsal

Kingswood Matters



Christmas is about a Savior who came into the world to bring peace. In Luke 2:14, it says, *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”* God has said, *“If my people humble themselves and pray, and seek my face...then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”* (2 Chronicles 7:14). Before three thousand people were brought into the Church on the day of Pentecost, the disciples had spent ten days in prayer, fasting, and spiritual travail. God desires that Christians be concerned and burdened for a lost world. If we pray this kind of prayer, an era of peace may come to the world and the hordes of wickedness may be turned back.



“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” (1 John 5:14)



The Christ Child

*“For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rest upon his shoulders;
And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace...

*He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”*

~ Isaiah 9:6-7 ~

How much we need the gift of the Christ Child, the “Prince of Peace”! Certainly, we all observe the lack of peace in our culture and world – even in our churches. Indeed, I readily see “unpeace” in myself. I violate peace not only in hasty words or angry attitudes, but also in failing to be the reconciler Jesus calls his followers to be.

So much of our culture’s unpeace arises because of greed, our proliferating needs and wants. How easily, especially at Christmastime, we and our children concentrate on all the “stuff” we want.

No matter how many presents we accumulate, there is always something else to be had – better toys, newer models, fancier clothes, faster computers and smart phones. As time goes by, toys break, the excitement wanes, and we discover the truth of the Preacher’s words: “*All is vanity*” (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

If we prepare for the true gift of Christmas, we discern the source of our yearnings in our profound thirst for God. That awareness frees us from our need to accumulate and grooms us to participate in our Prince’s reign, which he continues to establish and uphold “*with justice and with righteousness*” (Isaiah 9:7).

How much we need the Christ Child! We cannot free ourselves from all the unpeace – the subtle forms of violence against neighbors near and far, and the injustices entrenched in the wealth of our nation over against the rest of the world.

That consciousness prevents any romanticizing of Christ’s birth. He came into, and himself experienced, exactly such darkness, poverty, oppression, and confusion. And to all of us “*people walking in darkness*” he has brought “*a great light*” (Isaiah 9:2).

Moreover, because “*the light [of his salvation] has dawned*” upon us, we are transformed by his Spirit’s power into a new people who join in his work of peacemaking and justice building – always knowing that “*the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this*” (Isaiah 9:7), and not our own efforts. The Lord, the covenant of God, will accomplish the reconciling of the cosmos and embrace us in Christ’s reign to embody his purposes!

He is the “*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6) who defeated the powers of darkness that threaten, hinder, usurp, and destroy the world’s peace. Now, in this in-between time before God’s reign comes to total fruition, “*His authority shall grow continually,*” and consequently “*there shall be endless peace*” (Isaiah 9:7).

May peace abound in your home and in your life this Christmas, and into the new year, knowing that the Christ Child has come, and he reigns forevermore!

Love and Blessings this Christmas,
Pastor Jeff

What's Happening



As we are now in the season of inclement weather, please check WXII Channel 12 for changes or cancellations to our schedule.



The Children's Program was cancelled last Sunday due to the storm. The program has been rescheduled during the worship service on December 23.



On Sunday, December 23, the children of our church, along with children from our Preschool and the community, are invited to attend a Birthday Party for Jesus. The children's program will begin at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall with a photo-op with the Angel Gabriel. Activities are planned for children of all ages.

Adults are invited to come to the church parlor at 10:00 for coffee and a Meet & Greet, then we'll break into groups to share ways to keep Christ in Christmas in our family celebrations. At 10:30, the children will join the adults in the parlor for birthday cake.

Be sure to invite friends for this time of sharing, caring, and inspiration.

As a way to honor the Christ Child's birthday, participants are asked to bring scarves, gloves, and hats to decorate our Tree of Warmth. The gifts will help keep warm those in need this winter. Members of the congregation are also invited to help decorate the Tree of Warmth (located in the narthex) with the same items.

Following the Birthday Party for Jesus, everyone is invited to join together in the sanctuary for the worship service.



The deadline for staff gift donations was this past Sunday. Due to the cancellation of services for weather conditions, we are extending the deadline until December 30. You are invited to participate by placing your donation in the offering plate or sending it directly to the church office by Dec. 30.

Welcome New Members



Please update your church directory:

Laurie Sypole – 7220 Foster Street, Rural Hall, NC 27045, phone 336-969-5232

Ann Miller – 1418 Crestlawn Trail, Pfafftown, NC 27040, phone 939-750-4396

Karen Buoyer – 1430 Crestlawn Trail, Pfafftown, NC 27040, phone 336-813-3750



When filling out your Christmas cards this year, please consider sending a card to this address:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
8901 Rockville Pike
Bethesda MD 20889



New offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please pick up your new envelopes. Do not begin using these until the first week in January. At that time, please discard any old ones. If you do not have an assigned number, please contact the church office. **ALWAYS USE YOUR ENVELOPES WHEN POSSIBLE.** Thank you.



The 2018 accounting books will be closed out on January 7. Please submit any invoices or receipts for reimbursement to the church office as soon as possible.



The Youth are taking orders for poinsettias that will be wrapped and placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 23. The cost is \$12 each and **the deadline for orders is this Sunday.**



The Youth have provided mailboxes for members to send Christmas cards to each other again this year. The baskets are located in the narthex.



This is our opportunity to brighten Christmas for some Rural Hall Elementary School families. Ornaments on the tree represent gifts requested by the children. There are also ornaments that represent the scholarship program for Kingswood Preschool. Please wrap the gifts and attach the ornament to it so we can distribute them to the right child. Some ornaments have dollar amounts. These will be used to buy food for the families. **Place the checks, along with the ornament, in the collection plate or bring them to the church office by Dec. 18.**



If you have ever attended the Christmas Eve service at Kingswood you know how special it is as we sit quietly with family pondering the Chrismon Tree and the Cross, singing familiar carols, listening to the so-familiar yet so welcome story of Christ's coming, sharing communion, contemplating what we will do with His gift of love, and leaving by candlelight. Join us on Monday, December 24 at 5:00 pm for this special service.



The 2019 flower chart is in the church office window. Please sign up to provide altar flowers to celebrate an occasion, or in memory of a loved one.



Following is the next four weeks' Promises schedule:

- Dec. 16 – the children will remain in the sanctuary for the Cantata
- Dec. 23 – Lisa Poe
- Dec. 30 – Cindy Tomlinson



We will meet this Sunday at 6:00 pm.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Samaritan Ministries Penny Campaign. We donated 44 pounds of change to this worthy cause. Great job Kingswood!

As you bring your monthly food donations, please add some socks, gloves, a toboggan or a blanket to help the homeless in our community deal with the winter cold. Imagine having to face the winter chill without these items. We and the Kingswood Preschool will be collecting these items during the months of December and January. Let's do our part to help those in need stay as warm as possible.

REMEMBER



- **Sunday School** – this is where faith and life connect! We have great Sunday School classes for ALL ages. You are encouraged to join a class. How about doing it this Sunday? A nursery is provided during Sunday School. Please join us each Sunday at 10:00 am. You won't regret it!
- **CDs** of Sunday worship services are available in the church office.
- **Pastor Visitation** – if you desire a visit from Pastor Jeff please feel free to call him directly at 336-416-5869, or let the church office know.
- **Pastor Jeff's Prayer/Bible Study** – Come and be a part of this study on the parables of Jesus on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. We are beginning a lesson of "The Great Feast" from Luke 14:15-24. Prayerfully consider this spiritual discipline in your weekly plans. Please make note: We do not meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
- **Announcements** – if you have information to be included in this publication, please send your suggestion to: kingswood@triad.twcbc.com by Wednesday of each week.

"The Weekly Messenger" is published and sent via E-mail on Thursday of each week to those who have provided the church office with their E-mail address.
There are also printed copies on the table in the narthex.

Grace and Blessings!
We hope to see you this Sunday at Kingswood

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 2:30 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Closed Mon. & Fri.

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