



Come all the faithful, let us go to the House of the Lord...

On the 1st Sunday of Advent the words of Isaiah are these: "Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord..." (Isaiah 2:3b). There are two action verbs in that sentence, "come" and "go." We are invited to come. We are invited to go. Where? To the mountain of the Lord.

During this busy season we often feel like all we are doing is coming and going and the last thing we need is to add another event to our calendar. I urge you to accept the invitation given to you by God through Isaiah to "Come and go to the mountain of the Lord," or to be more specific, to come and go to the house of the Lord, to engage in the process of waiting and remembering that is the season of Advent.

Advent is a time of great joy for me as I walk through the days and weeks waiting for Christmas Day. I love the special scriptures of Advent. I love the hymns of Advent, especially "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

The haunting melody of this hymn sounds the plaintive longing we all have for the coming Christ. Then as we allow the words of the stanzas to resonate within our hearts we hear the hymn writer's longings for Jesus to come and ransom we who are in captivity, to bring order and wisdom

to our lives, to not only show us the path to take, but cause us (impel us) to take that path.

The verses continue asking Emmanuel to come into our lives as the Great Lord of might to silence the rulers of the world while bringing mercy to all peoples. The hymn does not stop there, it continues to speak in the voice of those waiting for Jesus to come and triumph over sin and death. The final verse echoing the call for Emmanuel to come and bind our hearts and

minds as one. This hymn of waiting speaks of the hopes and fears of the people of God as we wait for Christ to come again.

As we wait, we worship and remember the stories of waiting. The stories that always reveal the faithfulness of God to the promise that He will come and save us. He will come and teach us. He will come and redeem us. He will come and deliver us. When we remember we can sing with bold assurance, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

The season of Advent is always with us as we are waiting for the fulfillment of His promise that He will come again. It is good that we set aside a time in our worship life

to be intentionally waiting, intentionally focusing on His coming, intentionally turning to the signs of His coming, and through whom His message of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love is given.

Each week of Advent, worship will move us closer to the celebration of the birth of Christ. It will be my first Advent Season at Plank Chapel. I am eager to see the sanctuary adorned with trees, wreaths, candles, and poinsettias as we wait together.

Some special moments this Advent/Christmas Season include: The children's Christmas Program, December 19th at 6:00 p.m.; Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service at 8:00 p.m. (there is something special about singing "Silent Night" in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve with all the candles raised high); On the 26th a choral "Lesson in Carols" during 11:00 a.m. worship; and on the 31st of December at 7:00 p.m., a Watch Night Service.

The sanctuary has been adorned and prepared for the coming of the King. While you and I are waiting for His return, what better place is there to wait than in worship together.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,
Pastor Carolyn



Plank Chapel United Methodist Church

Meeting Schedules

- > Weekly—Choir Practice
Wednesday—7 pm
- > Monthly—3rd Sunday—
UMM—8 am UMW—3 pm
3rd Wed—Senior Circle at
10:00 am
- > CHAOS—Dec 5th at noon
- > Christmas Children's
Concert practice—Dec 5th
and Dec 18th
- > Senior Circle—Dec 15th—
10 am
- > PPRC—Dec 15th— 6 pm
- > Christmas Eve Service—
Dec 24th—8 pm
- > Watch Night Service—Dec
31st—7:00 p.m.

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Bible Study—Keeping Holy Time

Have you ever wondered what it means for us to be in "ordinary time?" Do you know why we change the colors of the paraments? Is it possible to know why we have a time in the church called Advent? Why are candles so important?

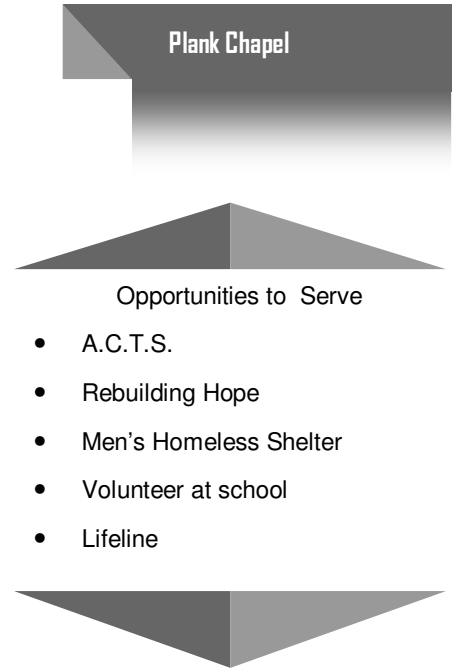
There is a study opportunity that may help you find

answers to these questions and more.

On the 2nd of February, Keeping Holy Time Bible Study will begin. Come to the Parlor of Plank Chapel UMC at 1:30 p.m. every Thursday afternoon to study scripture and learn about the Christian Calendar as well as the oddities of our worship life.

All you need to bring is your Bible (your favorite translation). The readings for the coming week will always be in the bulletin and given in class. During Advent we will focus on the readings for each Sunday, as we focus in on the birth narrative in Matthew.

Each day we need to remember to allow for Holy Time with God.



Opportunities to Serve

- A.C.T.S.
- Rebuilding Hope
- Men's Homeless Shelter
- Volunteer at school
- Lifeline

Education Committee News

The Education Committee met and discussed beginning assembly in the Sanctuary. Assembly will begin at 10:00 a.m. and we encourage all to attend this gathering time of fellowship, prayer, and song. At 10:15 a.m. all are dismissed to their classrooms.

There are classes for children, youth, and adults every Sunday morning. One of the spiritual disciplines that brings us closer to our Lord and Savior is the discipline of study, individual and in community. Come and

join us on Sunday mornings for a time of study before worship. Let Joe Sears know if you have a particular study in mind. The possibilities are endless.

In March we will be returning to the Beginnings Series—Longing to Belong. It is a video based study. We are asking for adult students to sign up for this series that we might purchase the material for each student. Registration is in the narthex or contact Joe Sears or Laurie Miller.

Beginnings—Longing to Belong Session themes:

- Longing to Belong? **Introduction**
- How Do We Find Our Place? **Baptism**
- What Are We Hungry For? **Holy Communion**
- What Happens When We Pray Together? **Prayer**
- What's the Deal With Miracles? **Signs and Wonders**
- What Do We Have in

Common? **Stewardship**

- How Can We Remember Who We Are? **Worship**
- How Can We Open Our Lives to Each Other? **Hospitality**
- How Can We Get Along When We Are So Different? **Conflict Resolution**
- How Do We Share what we have discovered? **Witness**

Sign up today!

Trustees—Policy Updates

Church Use Policy.

The trustees have developed an interim policy for use of Plank Chapel Facilities. Contact Scott Ritchey at RitcheyVS@aol.com or Pastor Carolyn if you are interested in reviewing or commenting on the interim policy.

Plank Chapel Documents Online.

The Plank Chapel web site (<http://www.plankchapel.org/>) has new links for our **Safe Sanctuaries Policy** and the **Lockup Procedures** for church facilities.

In time, we will add other documents (such as the above

Church Use Policy) to make them more readily available to all of the Plank Chapel family.

If you haven't visited our web site lately you may find other new additions.

Scott Ritchey



Christmas Gift Ideas

Methodist Home for Children:
The Gift of Family

Brighten this holiday season for a child or family - consider a gift that can change a child's life. Make a gift to MHC in honor of a friend or a family member and MHC will send a card of recognition. There are also Christmas wish lists from children and teens in MHC's care this holiday. E-mail or call Jennifer Cooper (888-305-4321, ext. 305, or jcooper@mhfc.org) for more information on honor gifts or wish lists.

C.H.A.O.S.—Plans and Changes

In December CHADS will meet on the 5th at noon and continue through Play Practice at 2 p.m. and Summer months. Much still unplanned

On the 18th we will meet for play practice and caroling.

On the 19th the Christmas Program will begin at 6:00 p.m. The youth will need to be there at least 30 minutes ahead of schedule for set-up.

On the 21st of December (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m. all youth who will be willing to read for the Lesson in Carols must be at choir practice.

For the month of January CHADS WILL HAVE A WEEKLY SCHEDULE. We will meet every Sunday in the month of January at 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. There will only be "munchies" and not meals served.

During this month we will continue our planning for the events throughout the Spring

Beginning with February:



6th—SuperBowl Sunday

12th—Steak Dinner Fundraiser

25th -26th 30 Hour Famine

March:: Trip to SPCA

Planning and preparing for our

Spring Bazaar as well as a multiple Church "Stop Hunger Now"

April:

1st—3rd—Kaleidoscope—Middle School Only Event

9th—Spring Bazaar

May is the projected month for the "Stop Hunger Now" Operation Sharehouse

June: VBS, Breakaway

July: ACS for Youth

Christmas Carol Quiz

1. Born a child and yet a King
2. Mild He lays his glory by
3. Ye who sang creation's story
4. And wonders of His love
5. O how lovely, O how pure
6. And still their heavenly music floats
7. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing
8. On a cold winter's night that was so deep
9. He come from the glorious kingdom
10. Lie the ages impeared
11. Where meek souls will receive Him still
12. Sealed in the stone-cold tomb
13. You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds
14. Radiant beams from Thy holy face
15. Such a Babe in such a place
16. Haste, haste to bring Him laud
17. That mourns in lonely exile here
18. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow
19. Love for plea and gift and sign
20. I gave him hay to pillow his head
21. Ox and ass before him bow
22. Our God, heaven cannot hold him
23. True man yet very God
24. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
25. He came down to earth from heaven
26. God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn
27. And thus that manger poor became a throne
28. God's stupendous sign
29. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
30. This gift of God we'll cherish well

The Children of Plank Chapel

Our Christmas Program is scheduled for December 19th at 6:00 p.m. The children have been working hard on learning about the carols we sing as well as playing bells. There will be additional rehearsals and Michelle Denton or Kim Dettinger will contact you with that information. I have heard there will also be a special

guest that Sunday night

On December 26th we are having a "Lesson in Carols." We need "angels," "shepherds," "wisemen," and "Mary and Joseph." You can contact Rev. Roy if you have found one of these needed characters.

The All Ages Ministry Team is working on a Sunday Afternoon program for our children. We are considering having this event biweekly at the same time that CHADS meets. Your gifts of music, laughter, Bible Storytelling, and creative crafts may be just what will make the program a time of growth and adventure.


Acolyte Training will be offered this winter as well. If your child would like to learn about acolyting—the what-how-why we have a candle lighter in worship, watch for the training announcement.



Community In Prayer



Save the Environment
and
Help our Schools &
Others!!!

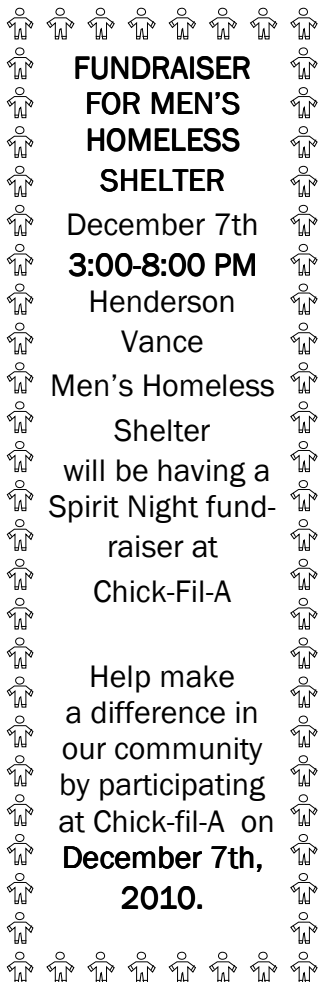


Save Campbell Soup
Labels
Save Used Postage
Stamps

See the containers in
the Education Building
Thank you!

For...An Advent of surprising moments of Grace
For...Those facing medical procedures this month
For...Those who are lost and afraid
For...Those without food or shelter
For...All who need healing and the reconciling touch of Jesus
For...a unified vision of our next steps in ministry at Plank Chapel

...For all who serve God's church
...For Plank Chapel
...For our pastor
...For our nation
...For our service men and women
...For our veterans
...For family members of those who are serving our country





**FUNDRAISER
FOR MEN'S
HOMELESS
SHELTER**
 December 7th
3:00-8:00 PM
 Henderson
 Vance
 Men's Homeless
 Shelter
 will be having a
 Spirit Night fund-
 raiser at
 Chick-Fil-A

Help make
 a difference in
 our community
 by participating
 at Chick-fil-A on
**December 7th,
 2010.**



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
			Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 1:30 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. CHAOS-NOON Play Practice 2:00 p.m.	Missions Committee 7:00 p.m.		Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 1:30 p.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Play Practice 2:00 p.m. UMW 3:00 p.m.			PPRC 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	Children's Play Rehearsal Date—TBD	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
UMM- 8:00 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Children's Program 6:00 p.m.	Caroling, Caroling, Caroling, Caroling	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Senior Circle 10:00 a.m.	Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion Service 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Lesson in Carols 11:00 a.m.			Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	 Watchnight Service 7:00 p.m.	

Christmas Eve Offering—Glendale Heights Tutoring Program for Hispanic Children

www.PlankChapel.org

Discipling
In
Serving
Christ –
Inspiring
People to
Live by the
Example of the
Savior.

Plank Chapel
United Methodist Church

Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.



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Phone: 252-492-1919

E-mail: cnbroy@nccumc.org



Out of our Parlor Talks come
Visions—Plans
Servants
January 8th
11:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Lunch provided

All are welcome to attend the Planning Retreat
Plank Chapel Fellowship Hall



Opportunities to Serve
The Lord!
Mark Your Calendar

In His Service This Month

Flowers:

5th—Frances Roberts
12th—Poinsettias
19th—Poinsettias
26th—Jacque Jones

Ushers:

Thomas Beckham, Mac
Wilson, Todd Wilson, Ben
Brown

Altar Guild:

Faye Woodlief and
Beverly Newman

Lay Readers:

5th—Lorraine Abbott
12th—Jeanette McGhee
19th—Gwen Ritchey
24th—Mike Ranes
26th—Various Readers

Greeters:

5th—Joe & Jeanette
Weaver
12th—James & Kaye
Deans
19th—Faye Woodlief &
Jane Owen
26th—Bobby & Bruce
Newman

Outreach:

5th—Pat Edwards & Donald
Rose McGhee
12th—Judy Wilson & Faye
Woodlief
19th—Marilove Spencer &
Jane Owen
26th—Joyce Edwards & B.W.
Brown

Servant Opportunity Newsletter Editor

Our Chapel Chatter needs an editor to compile articles from the various committees and teams. Proof the final copy and bring it to press. Contact Pastor Carolyn if you are willing to serve in this capacity.