

Welcome to... *Nichols-Bethel*
United Methodist Church

December 14, 2008

8 & 11 AM

Visit us any time at www.nicholsbethel.org.

At the Sound of His Coming, Awake!
Advent III

Medley for Gathering

"Sheep May Safely Graze"

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9: 1, 6-7

Carols For a Waiting People

While Shepherds Watched (Vss. 1, 2, 3) **No. 236**
People Look East **No. 202**

***Call to Worship**

Tell the faint it's time to take heart,
For the Lord our God is coming, and coming soon!
Let every hill and valley sing songs of rejoicing,
And all God's children clap their hands,
for the Lord will come. And He shall rule forever and ever!

***Hymn:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed **No. 203**

Lighting the Advent Candle

We long for God's presence in the coming of his Son.
Our Hope is the promise we have in the Lord.

Love is at its heart, love enough to leave heaven to save the earth.
So, despite all darkness and distress, we light this candle of love!
Advent Prayer for Illumination (All)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let your hopes for us overpower our hopes for ourselves. Overcome our terms-for-peace with your will-for-peace. Overwhelm our every reservation-in-loving with your love-that-holds-nothing-back. Let us believe like Mary, that even now, You are coming into our world and our lives.... and the child within us will surely leap for joy. Amen

(As candle lighters come forward all sing)

O come, Thou wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel.

(As the candle is lighted, together we sing)

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel.

Moments at the Manger... with the children of God.

(11 AM. Our children are invited to dismiss to their Christian education classes.)

Response: Away in a Manger (Verses 1 & 3, all singing) **No. 217**
Anthems (8 AM) *"Happy Birthday, Jesus"* 8 O'Clock Singers
(11 AM) *"Come, Come, Emmanuel"* The Children's Choir
"Get Ready"

(8 AM) The Baptismal Covenant **No. 39**

Macy Lyn Burneson

Macy is the daughter of Aubrey (Grove) and Michael Burneson, granddaughter of Tim and Jackie Grove, great-granddaughter of June Grove and Niece of Ryan and Corey Grove

Offering our Greetings, Gifts and Tithes...

Caring for our life in Community

Signing our Presence, Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Presenting our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory *"Silent Night, Silent World"* The Chancel Choir

***Praise God In Christ** **Tune No. 94**

Praise God in Christ who waits to come

And make our hearts His earthly home;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God in Christ who comes to birth!

Praise him who speaks our holy worth!

Come to lead us; Come to save us. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Hymn:** Emmanuel, Emmanuel **No. 204**

The Lesson: Luke 1: 41-17; Matthew 1: 18-22

The Sermon: Skip The Crunch, Kneel at the Creche

“Never Wrap ‘Til Christmas Eve (Then Swaddle Only)”

*Hymn: Angels From the Realms of Glory No. 220

*Blessing

*Choral Benediction: *May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you for ever; grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

*Postlude *Toccata on Veni Emmanuel*

Mary Carol Hawthorne, Organist

Art Foster, Liturgist (8 AM), Bill Oley, Liturgist (11AM)

Charlton Henry, Chancel Choir Director

Wayne Yant, Director, Eight O’Clock Singers

Meghan Humbert, Youth Director (410-874-7431)

Linda Coolbaugh, Minister Education/Evangelism

Kenneth Humbert, Pastor

Roses are given to the glory of God in honor of the baptism of Macy Lyn Burneson by her Great-Grandmother, June Grove.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthday of Addie Baldwin by her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Nichols-Bethel United Methodist Church

1239 Murray Road, Odenton, Maryland 21113

***Website: nicholsbethel.org *e-mail: office@nicholsbethel.org**

***Church Office: 410-674-2272 *Other Line/FAX: 410-674-2602**

***Pastor’s Study: 410-551-9285**

UMYF

Attention all UMYFers...Thank you so much for all your hard work last night at the Adult Fellowship Christmas Party. The entertainment was truly memorable. The Sugar Plum Ferries have NEVER been quite so festive! No meeting tonight. We will see you next Sunday at 6:00 for movie night and holiday treats. Please see Meghan with questions.

Annual Christmas Caroling - The UMYF will go Christmas caroling on Saturday, December 20. We will meet at the church at 4:00. If you would like us to visit your house, please let Meghan Humbert know. Also, if you would like to join us, let Meghan know. It is one of the highlights of our year! We will return home for some dinner and white elephant gift exchange.

Christmas Eve Rehearsal for Youth - If you are participating in the Family Christmas Eve service and are a youth, please watch for announcements for rehearsal times and places.

Dates to Remember

Today, 12/14 -8 AM & 11 AM – Traditional Service
9:30 AM – Contemporary Service
9:30 & 11 AM – Sunday School

Monday, 12/15 – 6:30 PM – Chancel Hand Bells
7:00 PM – Building Committee

Tuesday, 12/16 – 6:30 PM – Disciple Bible Study
7:30 PM – Bible Study

Wednesday, 12/17 – 10:30 AM – Women’s Bible Study
5:30 PM – Choirsters
7:30 PM – Chancel Choir

Thursday, 12/18 – 6:30 PM – 10 Dumbest Things Christians Do

FINANCIALS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2008

Income/Offerings thru Nov. '08	\$	396,579
Expenses thru Nov.	\$	415,796
Expenses Budgeted thru Nov.	\$	443,553

STEWARDSHIP

[A number of those who heard this message several weeks ago have asked for a copy and an update on how we're doing entering December. So we have provided these words with thanks to all.]

Friends,

Terri Higgins, Charles Billings, Chet Devore, Ed Garrant and I are among those who represent the voice of many who help oversee the financial health of our church and are charged with the important stewardship of the funds we see from members and non-members alike. Three weeks ago, we delivered a message to each worship service to explain our current situation and to make an appeal to our church family. We leave our spiritual house to our pastors and teachers, but the health of our financial house is dependent on all of us.

The facts are: 1) we have run an operating deficit for the last 4 years 2) our current operating deficit is approx. \$30,000 3) we project that as we track through the rest of the year that we may end up with a deficit of \$20-30,000, 4) we need nearly \$10,000 a week in income to meet our current operating expenses, everything from salaries to the missions we undertake. We are a very strong church, and unlike many, we have no outstanding debt. In fact, we have reserves and in years past we have bought and completely paid off two properties adjacent to us for the very purpose of expanding our campus; we have a large staff and have recently committed to a new choir director/music coordinator to grow our music program. We have a huge core of dedicated volunteers and leaders, a daycare program, an expanding youth group, and more children coming every Sunday. We have people working behind the scenes trying to stretch every dollar, enhance every program, and develop community outreach programs. We are now coming out of the closet – taking the heat on ourselves- and directly asking for your help. We're asking for those who can, to consider a renewed look at all forms of tithing; tithing money, tithing volunteer time, and tithing goods or services.

Many of us recently said, "This is not a good time to talk about this". Well now is the time! I was at the Md. football game yesterday and noticed there was no shortage of people buying \$4

hotdogs and \$5 cokes. How many times a day or a week do we do this? If everyone who is able just gave an additional \$ 7-10 per week into the offering plate, we could make our budget. Maybe we'll even get a couple of heroes to come forward. Please remember to give even when missing a Sunday.

This can be a wonderful opportunity to teach kids the importance of managing their money, to live a little more humbly, to appreciate the important things in life. My dad was born in February of '29, the beginning of the depression. It is time for the older generation to teach us kids and grandkids a thing about the importance of giving to your church and other charities during hard economic times. That it's ok to change our lifestyles if needed and make sacrifices, that giving to others can be rewarding and exciting.

My church family has been there during Vacation Bible School as a kid, Sunday school class as a student and as a teacher, graduations, my wedding, my children's baptisms, camping experiences, work camps, and friends and families funerals. What's important in your family's life? What's important in your Church Family's life? Your help is appreciated.

In Christ,

David Baldwin

With Terri Higgins, Charles Billings, Chet Devore, Ed Garrant

Making Progress...

As reported elsewhere in the bulletin, we've now received our November figures. They show that our reported deficit to expenses has reduced from 34,785 at October 31 to 19,217 at November 30. (Our deficit to budget stands at just over 46 thousand.) We thank everyone who has made this improvement possible! We are now closing in on our goal and hope that everyone will help us as we approach the finish line.

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above..."

James 1:17