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PEACE PRESS

Volume 24, Issue 12

December, 2011

The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.

LIVING GIFT MARKET

Sunday, December 4th

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

(See page 4 for complete details.)



Christmas Concert!

Saturday, Dec. 10th

7:00 p.m. at Peace Church

Everyone is invited! Come and bring a friend.

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Mrs. Rosina Whitfield
Youth Director

Ms. Wendy Washington
Nursery Attendant

Mrs. Sherri Vestal
Secretary

Mr. David Fesperman
Consistory President

Mrs. Paula Sinozich
Seminary Intern

Christmas Cantata



Sunday, December 18th — 10:45 a.m.

Our annual Christmas Cantata,

"One Small Child"

will be presented during the worship service.

(Please see article on page 3 for more information.)

The Longest Night

A SERVICE OF LIGHT IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS

Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 7:00 p.m.

(See page 5 for complete details.)

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for this very special service which includes reading of the Christmas lessons, singing Christmas Carols and Hymns, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and concluding with the lighting of candles. This is one of the most beautiful services of the year – plan to attend.



A Christmas Letter from Jesus

Happy holy days! I know some of you would prefer I say Merry Christmas, but folks... in case you forgot, I'm Jewish. I certainly don't want to forget my siblings celebrating those marvelous holy days of Hanukkah. However, since so many of you are so concerned about keeping me as the reason for the season, I thought I might weigh in on the matter.

Let's start by recognizing that there's nothing innately holy about December 25th. The day was chosen to compete with ancient Roman holidays and because some thought it was 9 months after Gabriel gave the news to mom. However, for centuries you celebrated my birth on January 6, Epiphany. Slavic nations using a different calendar still do their celebrating on January 7. Regardless as to the day, I'm grateful when you remember me.

Now some of you think that the secularists are taking me out of Christmas. The truth is, Christians have been debating how to celebrate Christmas for centuries. In the 1740's your German ancestors argued that celebrating Christmas on December 25th was a paganization. So yesterday, Protestants tried to take Christ out of Christmas. Today their children are trying to keep it in. Go figure. Oh, by the way, it's okay to write "X-mas." "X" is the Greek letter Chi and the first letter in Christ. It is an excellent and short way to write Christ's mass. I know that's too Catholic for some of you - sigh - but where did you think we got the name Christmas from?

While I am grateful for expressing your concerns, I must admit I have some concerns of my own. Even if you choose to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays", you weren't honoring Me back on the day after Thanksgiving when you knocked over the person in Walmart trying to muscle your way to the front of the line. I know you didn't see her; that's my point. And yes, that was a very nice letter to the editor you wrote when the city removed the crèche from the front of town hall. But do you think you are keeping Me the reason for the season when you spend more money than King Herod ever did! Folks, you spend more than 250 billion dollars a year on Christmas!!! During a recession!!!! You could provide clean water for the world for only 10 billion, and you'd still have 240,000,000,000 left for presents. That's a lot of 0's and a lot of presents.

Speaking of Herod, he killed a lot of kids hunting me down when I was a little tot. Now I'm not trying to be rude, but you need to hear this. You kill me - me, the Son of Man - every time a child dies from a lack of clean water. When someone dies because they didn't bother going to the hospital as they didn't have any health insurance; well that was me who died. When you spend billions on yourself while I lack a crust of bread, how can you think even for a moment, that you

are keeping me the reason for the season? Folks, it's about time you learned that I spend my time worrying about more than "holiday" trees and nomenclature.

While you haven't asked - sigh - I too have a Christmas list this year. Well? What did you think? It's my birthday, of course I get to ask for presents. So, here we go.

1. I want you to relax. There are things to get histrionic about in this world. The secularization of Christmas isn't one of them. If you're upset that there's no crèche in your town, put one in your yard. And by the way, I know I'm being picky, but the magi didn't arrive the night I was born. In fact they didn't come until later; much, much later. Just thought you should know.
2. Make a visit to a nursing home or the Hospice house on Christmas Day and visit someone who doesn't have any family.
3. Give your children presenCE and not presenTS. I came to earth to be with you. The least you can do is to actually be with your kids.
4. Practice random acts of kindness and forgiveness.
5. Buy a gift or provide a meal for someone you don't know. And DON'T make it the cheapest thing you can find. That's the kind of thing that just drives me crazy.
6. Don't be rude. The salesperson you just snapped at just got divorced. The person you honked at just found out his Dad has cancer. The person you just cussed out in line considered suicide recently. Since you don't know what's happening with others, try to treat them all like you would treat Me. And smile.

In short, if you want to remember me then re-member me. Re-embodify who I am and what I value. Work for justice. Show grace to those on the fringes. You are the only Christ some people may ever meet. Let them know by your actions what I am about. And if you forgot, the answer is love. The answer is always love.

Since Christmas is actually on a Sunday this year, I hope to see you at my mass.

Love,
The Prince of Peace



*Merry Christmas
from the staff
at Peace Church!*

Happy Birthday, Jesus!



“Are You Coming?” is the play the youth will perform at the Living Gift Market on December 4. It features the children in our church and a couple of others who are joining us for this production.

It is about a special birthday party and why we should

want to attend. It explores the real meaning of Christmas with some humor thrown in, too. The kids are working hard and it should be enjoyable for all ages. The play will be at 6:30 p.m. on our stage.

Also, we have a new feature at the Living Gift Market this year, a children’s table where young people can buy presents on their own. Everything will be inexpensive and the children can pick out their own purchases.

Toy Drive: On **Sunday, December 11** after church, we will go to Toys and Company and buy a few things for the Greensboro Youth Council Toy Drive. The store gives us a 10% discount and we donate the toys so that all children in the Greensboro area can have a nice gift for Christmas. Everyone is welcome to participate.



The first deadline for the Youth Ski Retreat January 13-16 has passed, so it’s a little more expensive at this point. However, it is not too late to sign up if you still want to go. So far we only have one registrant, so I am trying to join forces with another participating church so we can be one group.



We are happy to announce that Mary Lillie is back to teaching Sunday School. Please be reminded we have Sunday School for all elementary ages on Sunday mornings at 9:45. We would love to see you there.

Please have a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

~ Rosina Whitfield

Imagine a world without music! Imagine Christmas without music! We would certainly still celebrate the birth of Christ, but how different it would be. Music surrounds us during the Advent and Christmas seasons and is such a vital part of our worship.

A
Note from
Elisabeth

Christmas Cantata



The Chancel Choir special music is on December 18th (yes, last month I said December 11th, but we are definitely now settled on December 18th). We will be singing *One Small Child* created by Tom Fettke during the morning worship service.

I would like to say a huge, “Thank you” to the wonderful members of our choir. They have practiced since August on the Christmas music in addition to rehearsing our anthems for each Sunday. Their dedication and faithfulness is such a gift and a blessing.

Please remember to check the bulletin board for any announcements that we receive of community musical events. We already have one from West Market Street United Methodist for *bending TOWARDS the Light, a Jazz Nativity* on Saturday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m. in their Sanctuary. It will be preceded by A Holiday Concert presented by MarketBell Ringers at 4:00 p.m. Looking to the future, the Vienna Boys Choir is coming to West Market Street UMC on Tuesday, March 13th, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. The tickets are on sale after November 10, 2011.

It is also time to mark your calendar for the annual Greensboro Oratorio Singers presentation of Handel’s *Messiah*. This year it is on Thursday, December 8th, at 7:00 p.m. at the War Memorial Auditorium, and, once again, **Doris Yeattes** and **John Dieterly** are both singing. If you know of any other special musical events, please post them on the bulletin board.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Our worship on Christmas Day will be sacred, but casual. Please come are you are comfortable that morning... no need to get dressed up! Just come and worship and celebrate the birthday of a King — Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Merry
Christmas





6th Annual Living Gift Market

This is the 6th year that Peace Church has begun the Christmas Season by hosting a Living Gift Market and the results have been truly remarkable! We see the pictures representing the Gift Arks that we've purchased hanging in the narthex, but beyond the beautiful artwork we need to realize that for every Ark purchased, 30 hungry families have had a new beginning — a life with the promise of enough to eat, a life of dignity and self-reliance. The 12 Arks that Peace Church has contributed represent at least 360 families and many more through Passing on the Gift.

Families around the world (including the United States) are helped through Heifer International's program. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided food- and income-producing animals and training in their care to 12.5 million resource-poor families in more than 125 countries. At the heart of Heifer's philosophy is the Cornerstone of Pass on the Gift whereby families share one or more of their animal's offspring with other families in need. This strategy creates an endless circle of giving that stretches around the world making lasting change possible. A nonprofit organization rooted in the Christian tradition, Heifer joins with people of faith everywhere to work for the dignity and well-being of all people. Heifer provides not only income-producing animals, but also intensive training in animal management, community development and environmentally sound, sustainable farming.



In addition to the booths where you may purchase an animal or a share of one, there will be a children's table where children can purchase gifts for less than a dollar, a table where Greensboro Urban Ministry Honor Cards will be sold, a silent auction, and baked goods, along with a light supper and a wonderful children's play.

So, come to the Market on Sunday, December 4th at 5:00 P.M. and join in the festivities!

This year's Honor Card has been an inspired calling. Sitting in the studio pondering ideas, I was struck by an awesome message as I listened to Andy Stanley. It is titled "One, Not Everyone". In it he said, "Do for one, what you wish you could do for everyone!" As I leaned in and listened more closely, Andy shared that we have a tendency to back away from opportunities. Do you remember when you asked your teacher, coach or parent to do something special? Remember a response like this - "Well, if I let you do it then I'll have to let everyone do it!"



Carrie Underwood has a powerful song entitled "Change". Her lyrics cut to the chase convicting us to not believe other's lies when they say our efforts cannot make a difference. A smile, lending an ear to someone's heartache, serving at a shelter, buying a street person a meal, making the most of each opportunity is how WE will "Change the World". As I listened to those lyrics it made me immediately think of someone that I know living the powerful truth of Andy Stanley's message and Carrie Underwood's song.

Her name is Bonnie Harris and she is the inspiration for the 2011 Honor Card. Not too many years ago, Bonnie succumbed to the pressures of the world and became a drug addict. As a mother she had to give up her children and literally losing everything, she wound up living on the streets as a hopeless and desperate person. Ultimately with no place to go, she turned to the one and only that could help her, Jesus Christ, her Lord. One step at a time, someone reached out and assisted her and through the efforts of Greensboro Urban Ministry, Bonnie brought her family back and began to piece her life together.

Fast forward. Today Bonnie is the director of Hannah's Haven, a loving home that helps women break the chain of drug addiction and substance abuse. I remember her dreams early on and how some scoffed that there was no way she could do it. She listened to her heart and with the Lord's blessing she has a halfway house that rotates six women at a time. They are welcomed and nurtured into a Christian environment and literally where she helps to "Change the World" for these women. There are two verses from Galatians 6:9-10 that challenge and encourage our efforts. *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."*

Honor Cards are a great way to share your love with a friend or family member and give back to your community in a lasting and heartfelt way. Personally I would like to thank you for your support and challenge each and every one of us this season to look for an opportunity to **"Change the World."** (Bill Mangum, artist)

NOTE: Cards are available in the narthex following worship on Sundays through December.

NEWS & Notes



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died. There are other tragedies that life presents to us as well. But the constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had: the anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation. All of these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. More importantly, we need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For these reasons, Peace UCC will be offering a special "Longest Night" service on the longest night of the year, December 21st at 7 p.m.

We hope that you will come out, and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle — and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of their church background - or lack thereof - is welcome. For that reason we hope and trust that you will invite people in your life who may find this service helpful or appropriate to come and join us as well.

The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.



Peace Church Recipe Corner

Leftover Turkey Shepherd's Pie

EVOO - Extra Virgin Olive Oil
 1 cup assorted chopped vegetables (your choice)
 2 cups turkey, pulled
 1 cup gravy
 1 cup turkey or chicken stock
 1 1/2 - 2 cups mashed potatoes or sweet potatoes

Preheat oven to 350°F. Pour gravy and stock in a saucepot over medium-high heat until it comes to a bubble.

Over medium-high heat, heat one turn of the pan EVOO and sauté vegetables until softened, about 3-5 minutes. Turn off heat and add turkey and gravy mixture to the vegetables and toss to coat. Pour pie filling in a casserole and top with potatoes.

Bake 20-25 minutes until golden brown and bubbly.

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 4

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 4, at the conclusion of our regular worship service at 10:45 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the Mission Spending Plan for 2012 as recommended by the Consistory.

Greensboro Oratorio Singers to present

The Messiah

The Greensboro Oratorio Society Chorus and Orchestra, augmented by singers from throughout the Triad Area, present their 58th annual performance of Handel's *MESSIAH*, **Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m.** in the War Memorial Auditorium. Peace Church members, **John Dieterly** and **Doris Yeattes** will be part of the chorus. Admission is free — an offering will be received to help defray costs.

CONSISTORY CORNER

When Mel Palmer died on October 28, a friend died.

I have known Mel since November, 1960 when he came to Peace Church. Of course, he wasn't Mel Palmer then. He was Reverend Palmer. No 15 year old (soon to be 16) boy would call his pastor by his first name. Even when Mel received his Doctorate, he wasn't Mel. He was Doctor Palmer. Only after Mel retired did he become Mel.

While I will always have many memories of Mel Palmer, one that I will not forget occurred in November, 1969. Linda and I were living in Asmara, Ethiopia. We had sent Christmas cards early to insure they arrived in the States on time. Imagine our surprise when in November we received Mel's Thanksgiving letter to the Congregation saying he had received our Christmas card. In his letter Mel said "home is where you focus your dreams, hopes and plans. No matter where you are settled, if you are still focusing all of your feelings on another place, that is home..."

I have always interpreted what Mel wrote as meaning: "Home is where your heart is." For the almost 51 years that I knew Mel, his heart was with the Lord. I believe, without a doubt, that Mel is at home with the Lord today and forever more.

Peace,
David Fesperman
Consistory President

CONSISTORY ACTIONS

October 9, 2011

28 That we approve up to \$300 from the Endowment Fund for children's activities at the Christmas Store.

Motion passed unanimously.



The family of Mel Palmer wishes to thank the congregation for all of the kind expressions of love and support during his illness and death.

Thanks to J. D. Quakenbush, Roy Smith, and Don Willoughby for repairing the stoves in the kitchen. We appreciate all the work you all do to keep the church in "working order". Also, special thanks to **Jim and Opal Allred** and **Bill and Lola Klutz** for keeping our entrances decorated with beautiful seasonal flowers that create such a warm welcome to our church. Thanks to all of you for all the work you do!



Christian condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Mrs. Ruby Brady Patterson**, 94, who went home to be with Jesus on Saturday, November 26, 2011.



A 3 p.m. funeral service was held Monday, November 28, 2011 at Peace United Church of Christ. A private Interment was held at Lakeview Memorial Park. She was preceded in death by her husband, Troy William Patterson. Both were devoted members of Peace United Church of Christ.

She is survived by one daughter, Olivia Gail Davenport and husband, John. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Tammy Bridges, Terri Thornberry and Jason Davenport. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

The family requests that memorial donations be sent to Peace United Church of Christ, 2714 West Market St., Greensboro, NC, 27403.



Edith Sink has moved to Maryfield. Please make a note of her new address:

1315 Greensboro Rd., Room 2013
High Point, NC 27260
Phone: 336-454-0003 (same as before)



**RECYCLING!!
PLEASE NOTE!!**

The white foam cups are #6 polystyrene cups which we are collecting to recycle. Please rinse and leave in the white bucket near the trash can or the recycle can.



OR

Place the items in the large white tray on the counter in the kitchen and we will rinse them.

Please follow the same procedure for the white foam bowls and take-out trays.

Your help will be greatly appreciated!!

(These items are not recycled by the city, so please do not place in the brown recycle can.)

Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:

Hazel Bell; Lois Bell; Dot Benschoff; Bertie Bowman; Carol Carter; Frank Delfino; Richard Graber; Temple Green; Ramona Griffin; Jim Lillie; Ophelia Maness; David Murray; Pat Patterson; Betty Poore; Thelma Reece; Kelly Savage; Don Shiner; Betty Shoffner; Edith Sink; Betty Webster; Buddy Webster; Ralph Welker; Marion Whitener; Doris Whitley; Kelly Wyrick.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Carolyn Allred (friend of Una Lee Myers); Anna and J. J. Balzano (friends of Frank Delfino); Tim Crabtree (friend of Cynthia Bowen); Rhonda Frye (sister of Ric Freeman); Theresa Grill (neighbor of Sue Smith); Ray Haislip; Butch Holt (brother-in-law of B.J. Blocker); Frank Lillie (brother of Jim Lillie); Claire Lorincz (mother of Amanda Freeman); Millicent Madsen (sister of Charlie Walker); Lorraine Moletto (niece of Frank Delfino); John Moorefield (great-grandson of Betty Poore); Meta Power (step-mother of Ava Chambers); Dylan Price (friend of Rosina Whitfield); Bobby Smith (former PUCS Choir Director); Rodney Taylor (friend of Theo Scott).

On-Going Prayer: Bill Flynt; Ken Greeson; Charlie Walker; Flora Welker.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	REGULAR OFFERING	OTHER OFFERING
November 6	33	86	\$6,000	\$1,260
November 13	33	109	\$2,969	\$1,240
November 20	29	102	\$2,329	\$ 385
November 27	34	93	\$8,295	\$ 261

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

(through September 30, 2011)

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts	25,139	199,455	206,628	(7,173)
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	18,303	191,493	211,160	(19,667)
Mobile Meals, CROP Walk, Neighbors in Need	2,395			



December Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Susan Jewell	2 Cheryl Fahringer	3 Tommy Haithcock
4 Rachel Bennett	5 Rosina Whitfield	6 Laurie Baker	7	8 Susan Caviness	9 Ian Myers	10 Temple Green Bruce Griffin
11	12	13 John Patterson	14 Lianna Clapp	15	16	17 David Ackerman
18 Ramona Griffin	19	20	21 Ruth Fahringer	22 Don Shiner	23	24 Elizabeth Patterson
25	26 Russ Haver Laura Small	27 Clara Leonard	28 Don Wheeling	29	30 Evan York	31 Debbie Shiner

Second Saturday Cinema

Sunday, December 11 — 5:00 p.m.

A Christmas Carol

Well I don't know about you, but for me it's not Christmas without watching *A Christmas Carol* at least once. The only question in my mind is which version shall I watch? There's the 2009 3-D computer generated version with the voice talents of Jim Carrey.

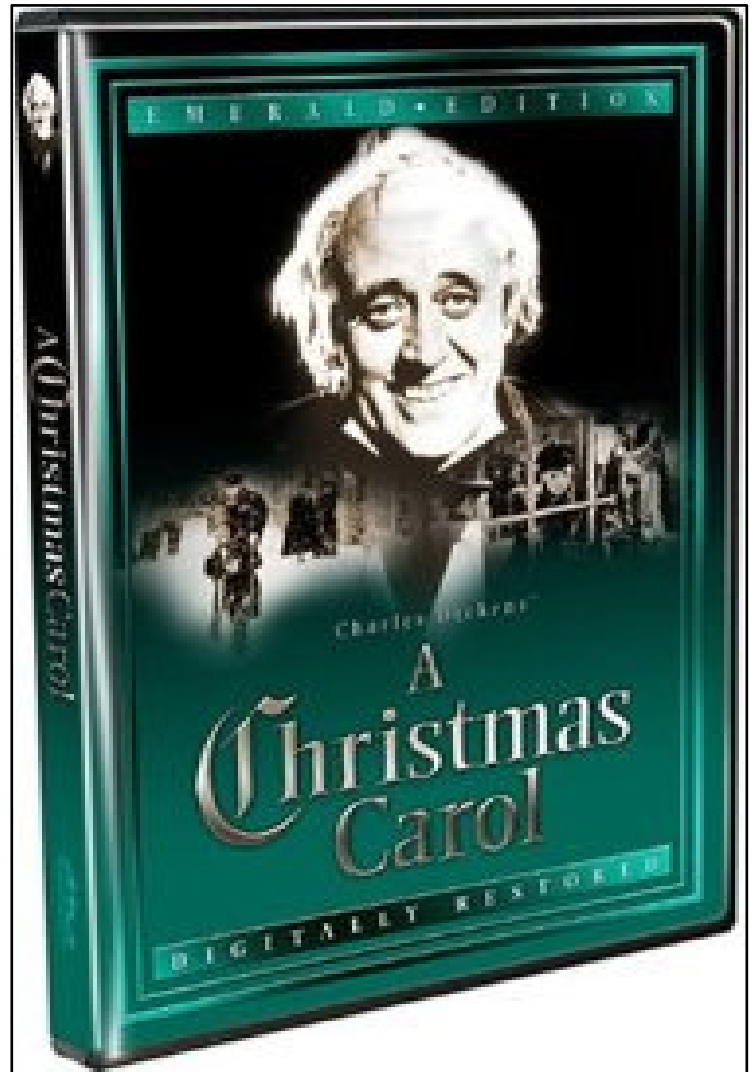
One of my favorite memories from my last congregation was watching a 94 year old woman watch that movie with her 3-D glasses. Of course there's the 1984 version with George Scott and the 1999 version with the Shakespearean trained actor Patrick Stewart, known to many of us simply as Captain Jean Luc Piccard of Star Trek fame. And then there is perhaps my favorite version: The Muppet Christmas Carol starring Michael Caine as Scrooge and Kermit the Frog as Bob Cratchit. However, provided I can find a DVD copy we will be showing the 1951 classic version starring Alastair Sim at our Second Saturday Cinema. So come and join us in the chapel on Sunday, December 11th at 5 p.m. (Note this time is on Sunday due to the concert on Saturday the 10th. Bring some popcorn or a snack and/or we'll order pizza. Afterwards we'll have a discussion about theology, economics and what Charles Dickens



was trying to accomplish with his classic work. Hope to see you then.

~ Jim

Jim



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