

Massanutten Ministry Link

A Publication of Massanutten Presbyterian Church

December 5, 2007

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

December 9, 2007

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Text

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon Title

Repentance on the Way to the Manger

Worship Leader

Nancy Davis

Hymns

Comfort, Comfort, You My People
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Once In Royal David's City

December 16, 2007

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Text

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon Title

Are You the One?

Worship Leader

Ellen Painter

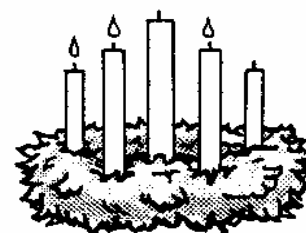
Hymns

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Savior of the Nations, Come
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Advent: *The Season before Christmas during which Christians anticipate the Coming of the Savior.*

Our Events . . .

Sunday, December Ninth at seven o'clock in the evening our Massanutten Brass Band Christmas Concert will take place in the Sanctuary.



Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Sunday, December Sixteenth at five o'clock in the evening. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy turkey, dressing and gravy. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or vegetable to accompany the main course. Bread, drinks and a light dessert will be provided. Reservations for the meal should be made by calling the church office or writing "dinner" beside your name on the Friendship Folder by Sunday, December 9. The Festival of Lessons and Carols, which includes readers and music groups from the congregation, will follow the dinner at six o'clock in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Services will begin at half past four o'clock with a Family Service of Carols, Readings and Candlelight. Communion and Candlelight Services will be held at seven o'clock and eleven o'clock in the evening.



Massanutten
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"At the crossroads of real life and abundant grace,
where God's children are...
meeting Christ in each other,
praying earnestly,
listening carefully,
singing joyfully,
and joining boldly
with the Spirit's work in the world."*

Christmas Benefit Concert at MPC

The **Harrisonburg-Rockingham Concert Band**, under the direction of William G. Posey, will present its annual Christmas Benefit Concert on Thursday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The concert is free, but there will be a free-will offering taken to benefit the Harrisonburg Area Habitat for Humanity. The concert will feature Christmas music from a wide variety of countries and in various styles. Last year was the first concert at MPC and it was a great success. Come be a part of this Holiday Concert!

Turkey Feather Tree

The Board of Deacons wants to thank everyone who took a gift tag from the Angel or Turkey Feather Tree this year. Your gifts will make the Christmas Holidays a bit more enjoyable for local families in need. Please bring your Turkey Feather gifts to the church no later than **Friday, December 7.**

Your kindness will help make Jesus' Birthday a truly peaceful and loving holiday for our needy families.

-Massanutten Church Board of Deacons

The next issue of *The Massanutten Ministry Link* will be mailed Dec. 19. Please submit to the church office any material for publication in the next newsletter by 3 pm on Dec. 12.

Advent Study Offered in Two Classes

Two adult Church School classes will engage in *Repentance, Faith, Holiness, and Love: An Advent Study* during the remaining Sundays before Christmas. The Disciples Class will meet in the Church Parlor, and Pastor John's Connections Class (for those in their 20s, 30s, or 40s) will meet in the Gathering Area. Call the church office for more information, or just show up for some great discussion.

Covenant Class Schedule

Did you ever wonder about the beginning of the Advent Season or how and when and by whom the Christmas Carols were written? On December 2 the Covenant Class will begin a 4 week ADVENT study on the topic: *Repeat the Sounding Joy—How the Christmas Carols Teach Us Theology and Instruct Our Faith.*

Is it Fate, Luck, or the Will of God? Just what is God's will? How should Christians pray for God's leading in all the circumstances of life? How are we able to discern the will of God? Can an evil event or tragedy ever be God's will? Scripture has quite a bit to say about this subject and there is great wisdom in the teachings of Jesus on this subject. God has a plan for each life; do you know His plan for you? If not how should you go about seeking it? If you are interested in this topic, please come and join with the Covenant Class beginning on January 13, 2008 at 9 am as we begin a 3 week study on *How to Determine the Will of God.*

Serving Among Us	December 9, 2007	December 16, 2007
Greeters	David and Alicia Gutschow Boo and Sandy Taylor	Floyd and Jean Wall Les and Vonnie West
Ushers	Steve and Sherry Gordon, Linda and Colin Green, Jim and Gail Oppy, Bruce Rohlf, Jack Wysor	Bob Bales, William Comer, Larry French, Tim Miller, John Myers, Don and Carol Poulson, Chris Preston
Sunnyside Bus Driver	Richard Ours	Brian Phelps
Acolyte	Kendra Strawderman	Seth Diehl
Sunday School Nursery	Kristen Suter-Blye	Ellen Painter
Infant Nursery	Rhonda Miller and Jan Arnold	Jim and Wendy Kinley
2 & 3 Year Old Nursery	Reid and Sheila Laughlin	Betsey Branner and Becky Hylton
Floater	Julia Sensabaugh	Rhonda Stees
Children's Church Leaders	Angie Baylor and Ricki Irvine	Tim and Jill Kincaid

DECEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

8	Shannon Showalter, Amy Bjorkgren Anniversary: Randy and Laura Atkins	21	Anniversaries: Dick and Jean Forbes & Ed and Cathy Comer
9	Ann Pettit, McKenzie Harpine	22	Ken Haines, Laura Long Anniversary: Robert and Sarah Scott
10	Melody Branner	23	Eric Nickel, Carol Way
11	Kitty Leggett, Barbara Palmer, Dwight Wm. Newman, Jack Coffman	24	Lydia Stuples, Ruth Smith
12	Betty Chalfant, Chelsie Reed, Lisa Cooper	25	Mark Palmer, Mary Lipscomb
13	Mike Guinn, Robert Grogg Ann Wilkinson	26	Paul Garst Anniversaries: John and Sally Brown & Steve and Judy Whisman
14	Sam Gamble, Tim Long, Isabella Lane	27	Bob Milner, Christian Updike, Pam French, Bill Laycock Anniversaries: Bill and Sharon Lam Bill and Sharon Posey
15	Timothy Cooper Anniversary: Charles and JaNell Reller	28	Susan Reid, Brandon Stees Anniversary: Denny and Mary Jo Slane
16	Ruth Wade, Ida Gordon Poole, Netta Coulter	29	Betsy Harvey, Rebekah Holbrook
17	Melissa Leecy, Elizabeth Stanley Anniversary: Tim and Jill Kincaid Anniversary: Bill and Jan Liskey	30	Chuck Jones, Jessica Preston
18	Nicholas Blye	31	
19	E. J. and Judy Morris		
20	Margaret Lears, Cathy Comer, Jason Cofflet		

Middle School Youth

The **Middle School Youth** (grades 6-8) will meet on Sunday, December 9 from 11:45-1:00. They will prepare and eat a lunch of spaghetti, salad, bread, and cookies. For more information contact Alana Miller at 433-1823. Due to the holiday season the Middle School Youth will only meet one time this month.

College Scholarship Available

The Eiler Memorial Scholarship for Presbyterian Students from Rockingham County. Students must be accepted and planning to attend any Presbyterian-related college located within the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Student or student's parent(s) must be engaged in agribusiness within the boundaries of Rockingham Country. This scholarship is administered by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Church (USA).

The Massanutten School Cookbook

Call your family and friends and have them get involved in submitting recipes for the Massanutten School Cookbook. If you have access to the internet, just log on to www.typensave.com and the login screen will appear. Enter your name in the contributor slot, then enter recipe 123 (with no space between) in the group login slot. The password for the recipe contributors is j7m24. This opens up to a welcome page on which you can then click add recipe to get started. If you have any questions there are questions mark icons to click on that answer most questions. The deadline for submitting recipes is December 15.

If you do not have internet access, please write or type your recipes on paper and put them in the box at the school office window. They will be magically entered into the computer. Regardless of which method you use, please, please proofread your recipe before submitting it. Submit as many recipes as you like. The cookbooks will be available for purchase before Mother's Day and pre-sale order will be taken from January 3-18, 2008.

Our Service

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION THROUGH NOV. 25

Weekly Budget Need	\$11,652.00
Budget Need Year to Date	\$547,644.00
Received Year to Date	\$519,286.46
Difference	\$ -28,357.54

In response to the blessings of God in our lives, we give of ourselves—our time, our talents, our treasures, our hearts.

Alternative Giving

Have you ever been in a quandary when seeking a way to honor a friend, to remember someone recently deceased, or celebrate a special event (e.g. Christmas) for someone? Many of us have closets full of clothing and shelves full of knick knacks. There is a way to celebrate our friends other than in buying them something. Honoring a friend through a gift to a charitable agency can be very special for the friend as well as for others. A gift to Church World Service, Heifer International, or the Volunteer Farm here in the Shenandoah Valley are three such worthy organizations. The next time you puzzle about what to give a friend, consider a special gift in honor of your friend. Brochures for these three organizations are found on the table in the narthex. Check them out.

Crop Hunger Walk

A final report on the CROP Hunger Walk held on September 30. MPC was one of 12 churches that participated in the walk. There were walkers from EMU and the Wesley Foundation, plus walkers not identified with a church or group. In all there were 170 walkers generating a total of \$13,634.47. Of that, our walkers generated \$1,811, the second largest amount of any single church or group! Many thanks to all who contributed and especially to all who walked and solicited sponsors.

Our Massanetta Springs Bath House Project



MPC members began rehabilitating the bath house at Massanetta Springs in October and will continue throughout the winter. Many MPC hands have assisted with the removal of deteriorated parts of the building and replacement as needed. To date, most of the interior walls have been replaced, rotten posts and concrete footers dug out and replaced, new windows and doors installed, and new electrical and plumbing roughed in. It is hoped that within the next month or so the insulation and interior drywall can be put in place. Exterior siding is also being installed. Thank you to many who have already donated funds, goods and labor to this project.

Skilled and unskilled laborers alike are welcome on this project - mostly Saturdays - but occasionally on a weekday. Please contact Skip Wissinger if you are interested in lending a hand. 289-6973

Hats Socks Gloves Mittens

It's time again for collecting warm clothing for those most affected by the coming cold weather. It is for the Zacchaeus Kitchen and Homeless Shelter in Washington, D.C., where they are distributed to many homeless and needy who have no warm clothing.

This winter, the Rev. Carl Moore, pastor at the Timber Ridge and Fairfield churches, will lead a group including members of the Bethesda church and others from the Rockbridge area to deliver the collected items.

Please follow these guidelines regarding the collection:

- » Send only **NEW items** (like new used items will be accepted as well)
- » Items accepted include hats, socks, gloves & mittens
- » Pack all items in **plastic or paper bags** for easy packing in the van. (No boxes)
- » Items being delivered to the presbytery office should **arrive no later than Tuesday, December 18, 4:30pm.**

(Note early date this year) The presbytery office may be closed later in the week.

Under the Radar



Ginny Biggs, growing up as a “daughter of the manse,” and later in her career as the wife of pastor Tom, had plenty of opportunities to hone her skills of service to the church. In her eight years as a member of MPC she has found many ways to apply

her energy and those skills to channels for service here. Most of these ways take her quietly “under the radar” in Massanutten Presbyterian Church.

Our Presbyterian Women see her in her role as chair of Circle #1. She has also served a term as Historian for the PW, and has been a faithful member of a small group that is at least six years old. Ginny keeps her growing edge keen on Sunday mornings in the Disciples’ class, and took part in the Disciple I program for a full year. If you are slow departing the sanctuary after morning worship, once a month you can spot her collecting the Friendship Forms from the pews. If you are at church when our Food Pantry is open, you might glimpse her serving as an interviewer, or on a day when Sam Hayter is not present, taking over his role of greeter. Twice a year she can be seen taking her turn as an assistant in the Sunday School nursery, and in the Worship nursery. One recent year she undertook the lead nursery assignment for an entire session of Logos; and this year she took home and washed the tablecloths for the WOW program for one month.

One important under-the-radar current role she has at MPC is as a member of the Search Committee for a

DCE. This committee was formed over a year ago but went through a dormant period of 9 months due to financial constraints. Those constraints having been recently mitigated, the committee is active again. Ginny and Tom will be moving into the Glen at Sunnyside in the “second wave” next June. But well before their arrival, Ginny has been active in Sunnyside’s operations, serving for 2 years on the Regional Board (the board that is concerned with this one of the three Sunnyside campuses), where she has been chair of the Resident Care Committee.

Ginny also serves once a month feeding Sunnyside residents who are unable to feed themselves. For this she is entitled to operate under the honorable (if somewhat fancy) title of “Massanutten Meal Enhancer”

One of the most rewarding MPC roles for Ginny goes back to her early years here, when she was one of our people working to help settle the Gatsutsin family, refugees from Uzbekistan. The wife in that family, Katerina, came over several years after other family members. Ginny still meets with her, preferably weekly, though Katerina’s two babies under 2 make that schedule fairly problematical. Ginny helps her with her English and learning the intricacies of the way Americans do things, especially in the fine print of advertisements. Katerina is almost ready to take her examination for citizenship. The Gatsutsins have owned one house and already sold it and bought another. Ginny provides a living link between the family and MPC, which was their sponsoring institution. Where would MPC be without mission-minded people like Ginny? She appreciates connecting with people, and remembers with gratitude the support of this faith community when she had two surgeries.

Food Pantry Schedule

Please note the adjusted dates for the Food Pantry times during December. The Food Pantry will be open from 10-11 a.m. on Monday, December 10 and from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, December 13.

Volunteers Needed

People Helping People is in desperate need of someone to help interview clients. This task requires you to be on the job one day a week (Mon.-Fri.) from 9:30-11:30 am. You may choose your day. Training will be given and a very capable staff will be available to support you. For more information or to volunteer, please call Bill Heinemann at 289-9000.

Our Community

A Singing of Handel's *Messiah*

On Friday, December 7, Massanetta Springs will be sponsoring a singing of Handel's *Messiah*. Please note the evening's schedule, as well as important contact information.

5:30 p.m. Dinner in Historic Hotel

7:00 p.m. Singing in Stewart Hall

All of the community, church choirs, and congregations are invited to join in singing the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah*. Please plan on making this a special family or church event.

Christmas Dinner \$12 adults, \$6 for children 5-12, children under 5 free

The Messiah Singalong will conclude with a free-will offering. Dessert will follow the singing.

Please call the Conference Center at 434-3829 to make your reservation or email Laura Holbrook at laurah@massanettasprings.org.

Redeemer Classical School Christmas Program

The Redeemer Classical School (which will soon move to the Keezletown School building) invites everyone to their Christmas Program at MPC on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Grades K-8th music and drama classes will take apart in the program. Kath Wissinger and Julie Staber teach music at the Redeemer Classical School. A "Charlie Brown Christmas" will also be presented.

Christmas at Augusta Stone

A benefit concert for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network will be held at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. Featuring "Faithful Men" (Vocal), "Rhythm Road:" (Celtic), and "The Boogie Kings" (Ragtime Ensemble). No tickets—Free will offering. Seating is limited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Choral Society Christmas Concert

The Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, under the direction of Chris Nolley, will present its annual Christmas Concert on Friday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. The program will feature the works of Ralph Vaughn Williams, Robert Shaw, and local composer John Barr as well as many other seasonal carol favorites. The chorus will be accompanied by the Shenandoah Valley Choral Society orchestra and featured soloists. Dick Forbes and Ron Matthews, members of our church family sing with the Choral Society.

Tickets are available from Choral Society members, Family Christian Store, Red Front Supermarket, Ruth's Books (Bridgewater), the Bookstack (Staunton), and at the door. Advance admission is \$10 for adults/\$9 for seniors and students; \$2 more at the door.



Daughter's of Song Christmas Concert

Daughter's of Song, a select community women's choir conducted by Gretchen Welch, will present their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Park View Mennonite Church, 1600 College Avenue in Harrisonburg. The concert begins with *A Ceremony of Carols*, a collection of medieval English poems set to music by 20th century composer Benjamin Britten. After intermission the program continues with a dozen carols reflecting the words in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Pianist Amy Robertson, Harpies Adrienne Wager, and flutist Mary Kay Adams will accompany. The concert is free and open to the public. A \$5 per person suggested donation is invited at the door. Susan Newsome and Hunter Davis from our church are members of the Daughters of Song. For more information please call 434-6048.

As a Community of Priests, We Are Called to Prayer

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Bill Jackson
Jane Burfoot
Mary Jo Slane
Edith Binkley
Kelly Miller (Mission Trip to Africa)
Barbara Walker
Wilson Sidwell
John Gronemeyer
Millie Roache
Frank Way
Whit Scully
Sharon Jones

FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Don Grimes, friend of our church family
Amaya Kinley, friend of our church family
Logan Hill, friend of Fleming and Sharon Jones
Scott Dovel, nephew of Warren and Sharon Dovel
Cathy Austin, Butch Dutt's sister
David Rose, nephew of Ann Wilkinson
Judy Thompson, cousin of Patti Hobbie
Erick Kasten, friend of Sharon Bloomquist
Sue Ellen Church and Paul Lee, friends of Kevin Caldwell
Claude Ramey Jr., father of Angie Baylor
Donnie Mongold, friend of Robert and Susan Reid
Jay Megaw, friend of Bill and Sharon Posey
Teresa Schaffer, friend of Tim and Cristy Long
Galen Long, father of Kim Showalter
Lori Bruggema, friend of Jacki Nickel
Barbara Eye, friend of Geri Black
Shirley Miller, mother-in-law of Rhonda Miller
Morgan Kanney's aunt
Marilyn Ann Laughlin, mother of Reid Laughlin
Vernon Threlkeld and Steve Duncan, friends of Jim and Gail Oppy
Chuck and Chase Green, friends of Tim Miller
Gabriel Kaden Morris, friend of Becky Hylton

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Mark B. Heltzel, son of Helen Groves (Department of Navy Medical and Surgery, Washington, D.C.)
Jon Guinn, son of Mike and Ka Guinn (stationed in Iraq)
Elizabeth "Lee" Davis, daughter of Marc and Nancy Davis (posted to Kuwait)
Ryan Tarman, grandson of Dee and Martha Floyd (stationed in Washington)
Chad Ritchie, son of Robert and Ramona Ritchie (stationed in FL)
Chris Jerome, son of Bob Jerome (stationed in Naples, Italy)
Brent Rohrbaugh, brother of Rhonda Miller (stationed in Norfolk, VA)
Joey Arbogast, cousin of Dee Floyd (stationed in Iraq)
Stephanie Beard, granddaughter of Jean Beard (stationed in Germany)
Erin Burtner, cousin of Susan Newsome (stationed in Iraq)
Timothy Norville, friend of the Dobroths, Nickels, Wissingers and others of our church family (stationed in Iraq)
Rich Shull, nephew of Don and Dixie Dofflemyer (stationed in Iraq)

Prayer is not a job list assigned by us to God. Nor is it a transfer of information between earth and heaven. God knows our conditions and our needs. Prayer, like the best conversations on earth, cultivates intimacy, nurtures obedience, and becomes a way of working with God.
- Eugene Peterson, in A Year with Jesus

Thank you for continuing to keep us informed of on going prayer needs.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

...**Audrey Price** and her family on the death of her son, James Price
...the family and friends of **Eleanor McCaskill**
...the family and friends of **Dorthea Harding**
...the family and friends of **David Bluhm**
...the **family** and friends of John McGlaughlin, friend of **Lynn and Sue Newman**
...**Robin, Diann, Chelsie and Diann Reed** and their family on the death of Diann's brother, Dave Taylor.



50 Indian Trail Road
Penn Laird, VA 22846

Phone: 540-434-6194
Fax: 540-434-3102
E-mail: mpcinfo@comcast.net

Sunday School—9 am (Sept.—May)
Sunday Worship—10:30 am

Church Staff

John P. Leggett, Pastor
Ann Pettit, Parish Associate in Member Care
Karen Leecy, Office Manager
Bob Jerome, Organist
Sharon Bloomquist, Pianist

Be sure to visit us on the Web!
www.massanuttenchurch.com

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Penn Laird, VA 22846
Permit #1

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>9</i> 9:00am Church School 9:45am Spectrum Handbell Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship Coffee 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Youth Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 11:45 Middle School Youth Meeting 1:00pm Worship Service for Korean Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><i>10</i> 9:00am Disciple 3 Bible Study 10:00am Food Pan- try 2:00pm Small Group (Sunnyside) 7:00 Sessional Ministries 7:00 Deacons Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Worship Ministry</p>	<p><i>11</i> 10:00am Circle #2 (Highlands) 10:00am Circle #3 (Sunnyside) 10:00am Shoshana Circle with Kay Davis 6:30pm Disciple 3 Bible Study (Parlor) 6:30pm Redeemer Classical School Christmas Concert (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Circle #5 (Library)</p>	<p><i>12</i> 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 am Staff Meet- ing 9:15am Crossroad Pealers Rehearsal Next WOW— January 8 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>14</i> 1:00pm Circle #3 (Sunnyside) 1:30pm Circle #4 (Gathering Area) 2:30pm Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study Class (Parlor) 7:30pm Harrison- burg/Rockingham concert Band (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><i>15</i> 9:30am Recorder Rehearsal 3:00- 10:00pm Fellow- ship Hall in use (Fellow- ship Min- istry)</p>	
<p><i>16</i> 9:00am Church School 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee 10:30am Worship Service 1:00pm Worship Service for Korean Presbyterian Church 5:00pm Christmas Dinner followed by program at 6:00 pm</p>	<p><i>17</i> 9:00am Disciple 3 Bible Study 7:00pm Massanut- ten Ringers 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><i>18</i> 6:30pm Disciple 3 Bible Study</p>	<p><i>19</i> 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Crossroads Pealers Rehearsal No PW Meeting 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>20</i> 6:30pm Disciple 1 Bible Study (Gathering Area) 6:30pm Massanutten School Christmas Program (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p>