

Hunter's Horn

Hunter Presbyterian Church
109 Rosemont Garden
Lexington, KY 40503



December 2009

THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

The other night my wife was talking to a friend about how ironic it seems that Advent is a season of waiting, as though Christmas remains what it was when we were kids—something very far off that takes forever to arrive. In reality, Christmas arrives with lightning speed, and most of us spend these four weeks running around in a daze, trying to get everything done in time.

In our house—and maybe your houses, too—that means not only many trips to the mall, but also writing Christmas cards, wrapping presents, putting up the tree, decorating the house, getting ready for company, preparing special meals, and taking our daughters to see Santa, probably several times. Daisy actually created a spreadsheet to organize all the tasks we have to accomplish—week by week and day by day—in order to pull off the production that Christmas has become.

Season of waiting? Right.

It makes me want to be a kid again. Because for kids Martha Stewart is just some lady on television, the trees in their living rooms are always the most beautiful, even if they are a little droopy, and gifts are something you give for fun, not as symbols of extravagance. But even more, kids know how to live inside the anticipation of it all. They remember the handful of Christmases they've experienced, and they dream about a kind of wonder that they don't fully understand but look forward to anyway.

All these things—memory, dreaming, and wonder—are at the heart of Advent. During this time we remember the promises God has made, and we look forward to the mystery and hope that is Christ. We prepare ourselves to hear the good news again, to relive Jesus' birth into the world, and to celebrate the deep connection that his life establishes between God and us.

I'm sure many of you have your own Advent spreadsheets, or something similar. So probably few of us will have much of a chance in the coming weeks to gaze dreamily out of our windows, pretending to be children again. But we can leave room in our schedules to remember that we are children of God. We can hold onto that one hour every week when we come together in wonder, as a church family. We can treasure each Sunday morning as sacred time—time away from all the worries and stress, time to feel a sense of peace and joy and yes, anticipation. Because without the sense that something wonderful is coming into the world, all the running around is just that—running around.



Best wishes for a wonderful Advent and a merry Christmas,

JASON

The Christmas Potluck Dinner is Sunday, December 13th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey and gravy will be provided. Bring a dish to share. Bring food at 5.30pm and we will eat at 6pm. Carol singing in the sanctuary will follow the meal. All are Welcome!!

Children's Rotation Sunday School

Nursery Volunteers for November are:



December 6 Frankie Daniel
December 13 Trisha Bernard
December 20 Margaret Maxwell
December 27 Emese Gal

Worship and Wonder Greeters are:



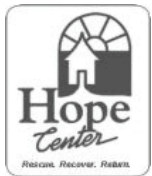
December 6 Cathy Martin
December 13 Kelly Telech
December 20 Greeter NEEDED!
December 27 Greeter NEEDED!

The children just completed their 3rd rotation; studying about Jesus' Childhood. In one of their activities, they studied a map and talked about the journey between Jerusalem and Nazareth. Take a minute and ask them about this journey! Thank you to our Rotation teachers: Jeanne Ocampo, Martha Alexander, Emily Warren, Emese Gal, and Frankie Daniel!

November 29th through December 27th we will be studying Advent: Isaiah's Prophecies. If you are in 1st thru 5th grade, we invite you to bring a friend and join us in Sunday school.

Please see Donna Goodrich or Paula Hudson if you are available to teach two Sundays during the January and February rotation in which the kids will be studying John the Baptist.

AND—Don't forget to come to the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 20th during the 11:00 Worship Service!!



Hope Center

The middle and high school youth will be serving breakfast at the Hope Center on Sunday, December 13th. Meet at the Hope Center at 7:45 a.m. or in the

Hunter parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Please let James Bush or Kelly Telech-Bush know if you'll be coming to the church so they can wait for you.

The Theology Seminar Class: Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am

The Quest for God: A study of Mystics and Mysticism

Class led by Randy Daniel

Readings:

- Evelyn Underhill, "Mysticism"
- St. Bonaventure, "The Journey of the Soul to God"

This class meets every Sunday and will continue through the Fall.

Mystics can be found in all three of the Abrahamic religions as well as among Hindus.



Here are the topics that the Theology Seminar will cover in December:

December 6. The Dark Night of the Soul
Read: Underhill, chps. 8-9, pp. 242-279
Bonaventure, chp. 7, pp. 37-39

December 13. NO CLASS!

December 20. The Unitive Life
Read: Underhill, chp. 10, pp. 279-299

December 27. A Final Discussion: What have we learned from this study? What next?

Mission & Outreach

EXCELLENT COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE RETURN TO HUNTER

Looking for some special Christmas gifts? The organic Equal Exchange coffees, teas and chocolates support farm communities as well as making welcome gifts. Equal Exchange products are available in the church office, during coffee hour on Sunday mornings, and at Wednesday evening dinners at prices that are lower than in stores.

The farmers who grow our coffee and tea struggle just to make a simple living in some of the poorest countries in the world. Cut off from markets, they are forced to accept low prices. Without affordable credit, they become trapped in a cycle of debt. Many lack access to adequate housing, healthcare, education, or even running water and electricity.

In partnership with congregations, community groups, individuals of faith and faith-based organizations we can provide support to these farm communities. By paying a fair price to the farmer, working with democratic cooperatives, offering affordable credit and supporting sustainable agriculture, we help these farmers build better lives. By purchasing Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate and cocoa you can make a difference, sharing fellowship with our global neighbors as we help them to help themselves.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Presbyterians celebrate the birth of Jesus by giving generously to an Advent offering. The Christmas Joy Offering began nearly 70 years ago. Half of the offering is used to supplement pensions for former ministers, missionaries, church workers and their families with inadequate retirement income or when medical emergencies arise. The other half of the offering goes to provide scholarships for outstanding students who attend Presbyterian schools such as Barber-Scotia College, Cook Native American Ministries, Knoxville College, Menaul School, Presbyterian Pan-American School, and Stillman College.

The Christmas Joy Offering gifts help students listening for God's call and church workers who have tried to follow that call faithfully for decades. Our gifts are thanks for past faithfulness and hope for future possibilities. Envelopes for this offering are in the pew racks; please give generously.

SHOPPING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NEARLY EVERYTHING?!?! ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR DECEMBER 6 AND 13

Having trouble making your Christmas shopping list? For a present that comes in a size that fits all, make a donation to a charitable organization in the name of your loved one and give the gift that shares the spirit of Christmas.

The Alternative Gift Fair in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour on Sundays (December 6th and 13th) will provide a way to make donations to Heifer International, Project C.U.R.E., Mother-to-Mother, or Blessings in a Back Pack and receive gift cards to give on Christmas.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



If you are interested in purchasing a Poinsettia to adorn the Sanctuary during Advent in Honor/in Memory of a loved-one, please provide the following information and drop it by the office with a check for \$12.50 made out to Hunter Presbyterian Church (cash is also accepted). Orders will be taken through December 11th.

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____

OR

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

You may also call the office (277-5126) with this info, but remember that you need to pay for your Poinsettia before your order can be completed.

Mission & Outreach, continued

Westminster Village: A History

In the 1960's, the Presbytery of Transylvania conducted a "needs assessment" of Lexington to learn about unmet needs in the community that the church could help fill. Out of that study grew a desire to help alleviate the need for housing for low-income families, as well as finding housing for families who were then living in condemned buildings. Presbyterian Housing Corporation (PHC) was formed, and purchased the property now known as Westminster Village, located at 1510 Versailles Road, a complex of 132 apartment units of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms.

There are many support services provided for Westminster Village by the Christian Service Ministry that is made up of all the Presbyterian Churches in Lexington. CMS provides after-school snacks, manages a clothing bank, and offers computer resources. Hunter has contributed through donations of school supplies and other personal items as well as financial donations. The Christmas food basket program was initiated by the Christian Service Ministry over 25 years ago and now provides food for nearly a week for all families who apply for the delivery.

B.U.I.L.D.

B.U.I.L.D. has a new lead organizer, Jeanette Aprato, who will work with Hunter Presbyterian Church. Kelly Doyle is now the head lead organizer, since Benjamin Van Dyne went to work with a similar group in Virginia.

Updates on issue work: (continued to the right)

—The new Crime and Drugs committee hopes to focus on and research two specific problems, 1) that youth are selling and using drugs, and 2) that it is difficult to get youth into treatment programs. This committee will meet again on December 15th, January 19th, and February 23rd at Shiloh Baptist Church at 7 pm.

—The Affordable Housing committee is looking into researching the officials who will be asked to commit to a renewable affordable housing trust fund. An LFUCG Council Task Force was set up with Diane Lawless as chair of the group. This task force had a meeting on November 17th. The next B.U.I.L.D. committee meeting will be on December 14th at Shiloh Baptist Church at 7 pm.

SAVE THE DATE!! DECEMBER 20 for Westminster Village!

Westminster Village provides housing for more than a hundred low income families. During the Christmas holidays residents can sign up to receive a Christmas basket. Food items of all kinds are provided at cost by Sloan's Signature Market. Presbyterian church members pick up baskets (actually grocery bags) at Sloan's loading dock and deliver the groceries to Westminster residents on December 20th. Each participating Presbyterian Church is assigned a pick up time and Hunter's is 2:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet on the Kitchen bulletin board to participate. It takes only an hour or two, but provides Christmas joy that lasts a long time.

Two kinds of help are needed: drivers with cars to pick up at Sloan's and people of all ages to deliver the baskets to apartments. Well-organized by the Christian Service Ministry of Transylvania Presbytery, this is a Christmas activity that families can do together. It takes only an hour or two, but provides Christmas joy that lasts a long time. All who sign up to participate will receive additional instructions. Questions? Contact Suzi Kifer, 277-0816.



AND...speaking of Westminster Village, thanks to all who have given generously to the collection of school supplies and personal care items. More than two very large boxes were delivered to Westminster Village this fall. Collection of items goes on all year around. There is a bin in the Kitchen Hallway.

—The Health Care committee received a report from Dr. Rice Leach on September 10th stating that collectively the major healthcare providers in Lexington saw 7,000 more underinsured and uninsured patients in 2008 than in 2006. These providers are also beginning to secure funding for electronic health record systems as well as designing a pilot project for colonoscopy procedures to be implemented in the Spring of 2010. The Bluegrass Community Medical Center has secured funds to hire two more staff members to provide care for substance abuse. Colonoscopy procedures and consolation for substance abuse were identified as being among the top needs for patients treated by the "safety net" providers. Dr. Rice Leach will be talking at Hunter on Wednesday, December 9th.

Sunday Worship at 8:45 am and 11:00 am

December 2009

Events at Hunter Presbyterian Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|  All are welcome here... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 6:30 pm, Recovery Singers, FH 8:45 Early Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship — Christmas Program | 7 Flower Guild , 9:30 am Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | Girl Scouts, 6pm, UC | Wednesday Dinner & Program , 6:00 pm, FH Adult Choir, 7:30 pm | Thursday Group, 6:30 pm, FH Alateen, 7:30 pm, Library NA, 7:30 pm, UC Al-Anon, 7:30 pm, Lounge | Wheeler Dealer Square Dancers, 7:30 pm, FH | 5 PWOH Council Meeting , 10 am, FH/Kitchen Al-Anon, 12:30 – 4pm, FH NA, 7:30 pm, UC |
| 6:30 pm, Recovery Singers, FH | 8 Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | Travel Club, 7 pm, FH | 9 Wednesday Dinner & Program , 6:00 pm, FH Adult Choir, 7:30 pm | 10 Deborah Circle , 10 am, UC | 11 | 12 Set-up Tables for Christmas Dinner NA, 7:30 pm, UC |
| 13 Pledge Dedication Sunday 8:45 Early Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship | 14 Flower Guild , 9:30 am Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | 15 Girl Scouts, 6 pm, UC KY Mountain Club, 6:30 pm, FH | 16 Wednesday Dinner & Program , 6:00 pm, FH Adult Choir, 7:30 pm | 17 Alateen, 7:30 pm, Library NA, 7:30 pm, UC Al-Anon, 7:30 pm, Lounge | 18 | 19 VIPS Dinner, 10am, FH |
| Christmas Dinner, 6:00 pm, FH | 21 Flower Guild , 9:30 am Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | 22 Girl Scouts, 6 pm, UC KY Mountain Club, 6:30 pm, FH | 23 Wednesday Dinner & Program , 6:00 pm, FH Adult Choir, 7:30 pm | 24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas Day  Merry Christmas! OFFICE CLOSED | 26 Christian/Muslim Dialogue, 10 am, FH/UC/Kitchen |
| 20 8:45 Early Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship — Children's Christmas Pageant 12:30 Session Meeting, FH | 28 Flower Guild , 9:30 am Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | 29 Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | 30 Adult Choir, 7:30 pm | 31 Christmas Eve Service , 5:30 pm | NA, 7:30 pm, UC | NA, 7:30 pm, UC |
| 27 8:45 Early Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship | 28 Flower Guild , 9:30 am Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | 29 Co-op Quilters, 6:30 pm, UC | 30 Adult Choir, 7:30 pm | 31 Christmas Eve Service , 5:30 pm | NA, 7:30 pm, UC | NA, 7:30 pm, UC |
| <p>Bulletin items are due each Wednesday afternoon for Sunday bulletins!</p> <p>Read the <i>Hunter's Horn</i> and other news at: www.hunterpresbyterian.org</p> | | | | | | |



Stitch 'N Listen

Will *NOT* be meeting in December. We'll see you in January!

Night Circle will *NOT* meet in December; there will not be a devotional or dinner. We will resume after the first of the year. Merry Christmas!

Deborah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 10th at 10:00 am in the Undercroft. We will be loading backpacks for our "Blessings" program following the meeting.

The Lunch Bunch

For more information about the Lunch Bunch, please call Betty Scott at 272-2800.

Hunter Members say, "Thank you!"

"Irma and I want to thank our church family for the cards, letters, phone calls, and meals. Irma had her staples removed Monday, November 9th and is doing a lot better. Hunter Church is a caring church!"

~Carl & Irma Almgren

Thank you to the Flower Guild! It was so nice to be thought of so often during my convalescence. I enjoyed the flowers and visits so very much. I am very grateful to my church family.

God Bless,
Lola Woolums

Hunter's Horn Articles will be due on Wednesday, December 23rd. ~Thank You!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF HUNTER MAKE MEMORIAL GIFT TO LIBRARY



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In memory of Hunter members who have died during the past year (Bill Scott, Laura Miller, and Martha Sayre), the PWOH has made a gift to purchase books that will enrich the entire Hunter Church Library. Now available are: The Case for God, by Karen Armstrong; Leaving Home with Faith, by Elizabeth Caldwell; Who Switched the Price Tags?, by Tony Campolo; Finding God in Unexpected Places, by Philip Yancy; Traveling With Pomegranates, by Sue Monk Kidd; and Sin Boldly, by Cathleen Falsani.

BOOKS DISAPPEAR

Some of the best books have a way of leaving the library, never to return. Replacement copies have been purchased of Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson; The Gospel According to Harry Potter, by Connie Neal; and The Memory Keeper's Daughter, by Kim Edwards. If you have used the library this year, please check your shelves to be sure that all the books you borrowed have been returned. (And take out more when returning them!)

BOOKS APPEAR

Special thanks to Sheila Gibson for her generous contribution of books to enrich the library's collection. Of special interest at this time of year is How Will I Get through the Holidays, by James Miller. Check it out!

Clerk's Corner by Ruth Beattie, Clerk of Session

The most recent Stated Meeting of Session was held on Sunday November 15th, 2009.

At this meeting the Session:

- Reviewed the financial statement for October 2009.
- Approved the curriculum for the Alternatives Sunday School class.
- Elected David Hulse as Treasurer for 2010.
- Approved the podcasting of the 8.45am worship service. The podcasts will be available through the Hunter website and through iTunes.

Dates to Note:

- Christmas Music program by the adult choir – December 6, 11am
- All-church Christmas Dinner – December 13, bring food at 5.30pm, dinner begins at 6pm.
- Children's Christmas Pageant – December 20, 11am
- Christmas Eve Worship Service with communion – 5.30pm

Stewardship Report

October Report:

| | <u>October</u> | <u>Year-to-date</u> | <u>YTD as % of amount budgeted for 2009</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| Pledges Received | \$18,456 | \$171,394 | 74.8% |
| Total Receipts | \$23,477 | \$210,983 | 73.1% |
| Total expenditures | \$22,545 | \$230,529 | 74.2% |

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Nominating
TBA

Stewardship
TBA

Worship & Music
NO Meeting!

Session: Sunday, December 20 at 12:30 pm (FH)

Outreach
NO Meeting!

Property
TBA

Evangelism
TBA

Look Who's Having a Birthday in December!

- 1 Reta Coughenour
- 3 Jed French
- 6 Matthew Goodrich
- 7 Allen Pendergrast
- 8 Trisha Bernard
- 9 Betty Wright
- 10 Ada Pitman
- 10 Lucy Albright
- 12 Janie Surmont
- 12 Martha Alexander
- 17 Susan Dyer
- 18 Mike Hudson
- 19 Sharon Lovelace
- 23 Carl Almgren
- 27 Alexa Ocampo
- 27 Nicholas Ocampo
- 28 Nancy Covert
- 29 Margaret Maxwell



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Wednesdays at Hunter

Childcare is provided at our Wednesday Night Dinner & Program, so bring the whole family and enjoy some good food and fellowship!!

• **Wednesday, December 2nd, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Dinner: Vegetable Salad, ham, Harvard beets, green beans, hash brown casserole, rolls and dessert.

Program: Dr. Tom Barnes of the UK Extension Service will share portions of his new book in a talk titled "Caring for Creation." He takes beautiful pictures of nature; you may have seen some of them in the Herald Leader recently.

• **Wednesday, December 9th, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Dinner: Sweet and sour beet salad, Loretta's creamy chicken casserole with rice, rolls and dessert.

Program: Dr. Rice Leach, head of the clinic at the Fayette County Health Department, will talk about the clinic and its work. Dr. Leach is very involved with the group addressing BUILD's concerns about providing services to uninsured people.

• **Wednesday, December 16th, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Dinner: Shaker meal.

Program: Trish Bernard will talk about her work.

• **Wednesday, December 23rd**

NO DINNER OR PROGRAM DUE TO CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY!

• **Wednesday, December 30th, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

NO DINNER OR PROGRAM DUE TO NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY!